

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC



**WIN!** 10 CONSOLES  
AND GAMES

# KIDS

DARE TO EXPLORE

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## RHINOS

WHY THEY  
NEED YOUR  
HELP



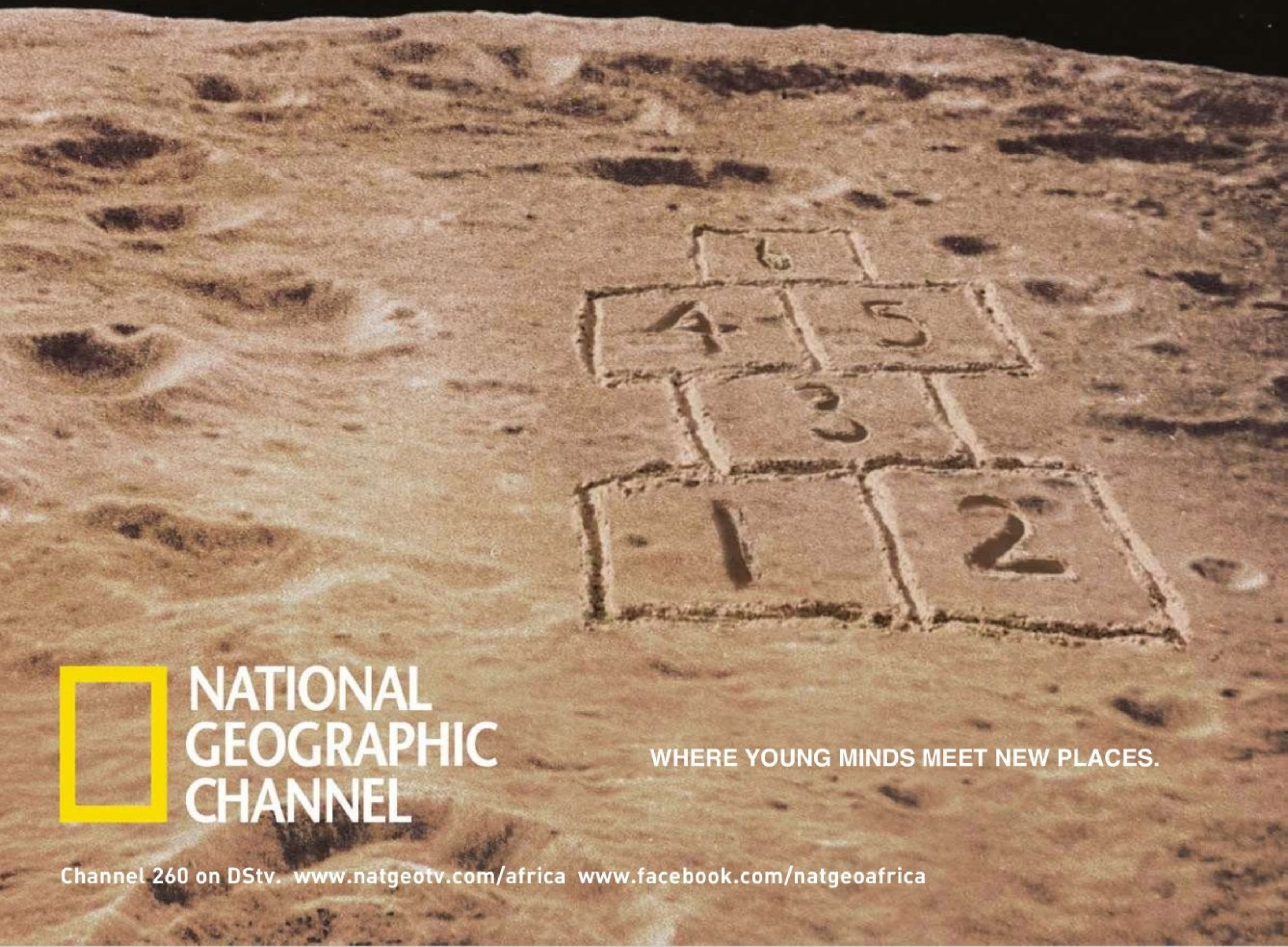
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COMIC!



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# HI, KIDS



THE BOYS AT ST STITHIANS COLLEGE IN JOHANNESBURG TAKE PART IN MANY PROJECTS TO SAVE THE RHINO. HERE THEY ARE STANDING TOGETHER IN SUPPORT FOR THIS CAUSE.



WWW.STOPRHINOPOACHING.COM



## LETTER OF THE MONTH

DEAR FIONA

DURING THE OCTOBER HOLIDAYS I WENT TO THE ADDO ELEPHANT PARK WITH MY MUM, DAD, BROTHER AND LITTLE SISTER. THERE WERE MANY ELEPHANTS. ON THE LAST DAY WE SAW A HERD OF 31 ELEPHANTS! THERE ARE MANY OTHER ANIMALS AS WELL. WE SAW ONE OF THE RAREST: A LION. THERE ARE ONLY NINE OF THEM IN THE PARK. I TOOK A CUTE PICTURE OF TWO OSTRICHES STANDING BEHIND EACH OTHER, SO IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OSTRICH WITH TWO HEADS. BEHIND THEM AN ELEPHANT IS WALKING BY, HE SEEMS TO WANT TO BE PART OF IT AS WELL - HE'S RAISING HIS TRUNK. I LOVE CAMPING AND THE OUTDOORS AND I LOVE NG KIDS JUST AS MUCH!

MARISKA DE WIT, 13

## SUBSCRIBER OF THE MONTH

January's subscriber of the month is Leon Visagie, 8, from Swartpan Farm, Makwassie, in the North West Province.

Leon won an awesome NIVEA® SUN hamper valued at R800 which includes a NIVEA® SUN Kids Swim & Play Lotion SPF 50+, Kids Trigger Spray SPF 50+, Kids Sun Lotion SPF 50+, Light Feeling Daily Face Sun Fluid SPF 50+, Invisible Protection Spray SPF 50, NIVEA® beach towel and kids reading book Paley, The Little Boy who wanted to be Friends with the Sun.



**WRITE TO US!**  
 Send us your letters, birthdays, pictures and comments. We want to hear from you, so start writing!

- Write to us at: The Editor, NG KIDS, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000.
- Send us an e-mail to [fiona@ngkids.co.za](mailto:fiona@ngkids.co.za) or SMS\* us a letter to "NGK Letters" 33970.

\* Standard rates apply for MMSs, so ask your parents first! SMSs cost R1,50. Free SMSs do not apply. See [www.ngkids.co.za](http://www.ngkids.co.za) for terms and conditions.

It is awful that rhinos are killed for things we ourselves produce every day: fingernails, toenails and hair! Some very upsetting pictures of rhinos with bloodied heads left in the veld after poachers have cut off their horn have been published in newspapers and on websites. These shocking pictures prompted people to take action, mainly by donating money to a well-known environmental organisation. We decided not to put these in the magazine but it's important that you understand how serious the situation is. There is a lot you can do. One little boy raised money by selling rhino bands. You can also tell everybody that rhino horn has absolutely no special powers!

This is quite a serious way to start the year but I know how much animals and particularly rhinos mean to NG KIDS readers.

South Africa is an amazing place to live and now the world knows what we knew all along. Table Mountain in Cape Town has been voted one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. It's fantastic news and is sure to bring many more visitors to our country.

Take a look at Inside Scoop this month. You'll find lots of news as usual, but then you'll see that you can vote for the stories you want to read more about in 2012. If you don't want to SMS you can e-mail me at [Fiona@ngkids.co.za](mailto:Fiona@ngkids.co.za) or give me a call at 021-443-9841. It's a new number as the team has moved into a new, very cool office which even has a pool table!

Dare to Explore! *Fiona*



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Go to [www.NIVEA.co.za](http://www.NIVEA.co.za) for more information.

**EDITORIAL**

**Editor** Fiona Thomson  
fiona@ngkids.co.za  
**Deputy Editor** Delené van der Lugt  
**Assistant Editor** Jani Coetzee  
jani@ngkids.co.za  
**Art Director** Emil Papp  
**Copy Editor** Pieter van der Lugt

**PUBLISHING**

**General Manager** Charlene Beukes  
**Associate Publisher** Kelly Cloete

**SALES**

**Business Manager (Johannesburg)**  
Anthony Evlambiou  
011-322-0711  
**Business Manager (Cape Town)**  
Hugo van der Westhuizen  
021-443-9402  
**Sales Manager (KwaZulu-Natal)**  
Eugene Marais  
031-533-7655  
**Business Manager Direct**  
Marilize Hay  
011-263-4761  
**Digital Sales Manager**  
Elmarie Vermeulen  
011-217-3136  
**Group Sales Director**  
Eureka Zandberg  
**National Direct Sales Manager**  
Danie Nell  
011-263-4897  
**Direct Sales Executive**  
Karen Mahlangu  
011-263-4909

**Johannesburg Central Sales Team**  
(Agencies) Tel: 011-322-0711

**Cape Town Central Sales Team**  
(Agencies) Tel: 021-443-9401

**Durban Central Sales Team**  
(Agencies) Tel: 031-533-7600

**MARKETING and PR**

**Marketing Executive** Lisel Daniels  
Tel: 021-443-9857  
**PR Intern** Ameerah Kenny

**CIRCULATION AND SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS,  
PO Box 1802, Cape Town 8000 or  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS,  
Free Post, C80006,  
Cape Town 8000 RSA  
Tel: 0860-103-578 Fax: 021-405-1033  
E-mail: ngkids\_subs@media24.com

**DIGITAL**

**Digital Assistant**  
Shounees Moola  
**Website:** www.ngkids.co.za

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS**

**CAPE TOWN:**  
ABSA Building, Lifestyle Division,  
4th floor, 4 Adderley Street,  
Cape Town  
Tel: 021-443-9871;  
Postal address: PO Box 2271,  
Cape Town 8000

**DIRECTORS**

John Relihan, Raj Lalbahadur

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**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER AND EXTREME EXPLORER**

**Vice President and Publisher** Francis Downey  
**Art Director and Designer** Karen Thompson **Editors** Brenna Maloney, Sara Chauhan, Macon Morehouse **Designer** James Wildman  
**Photo Editor** Shannon Hibberd, Mary Ann Price

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Everything you need to know about the majestic rhino.

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Send us your artworks and win amazing prizes!

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**HOW TO:**

**ONE:**  
Ask Mum  
or Dad to  
help you.

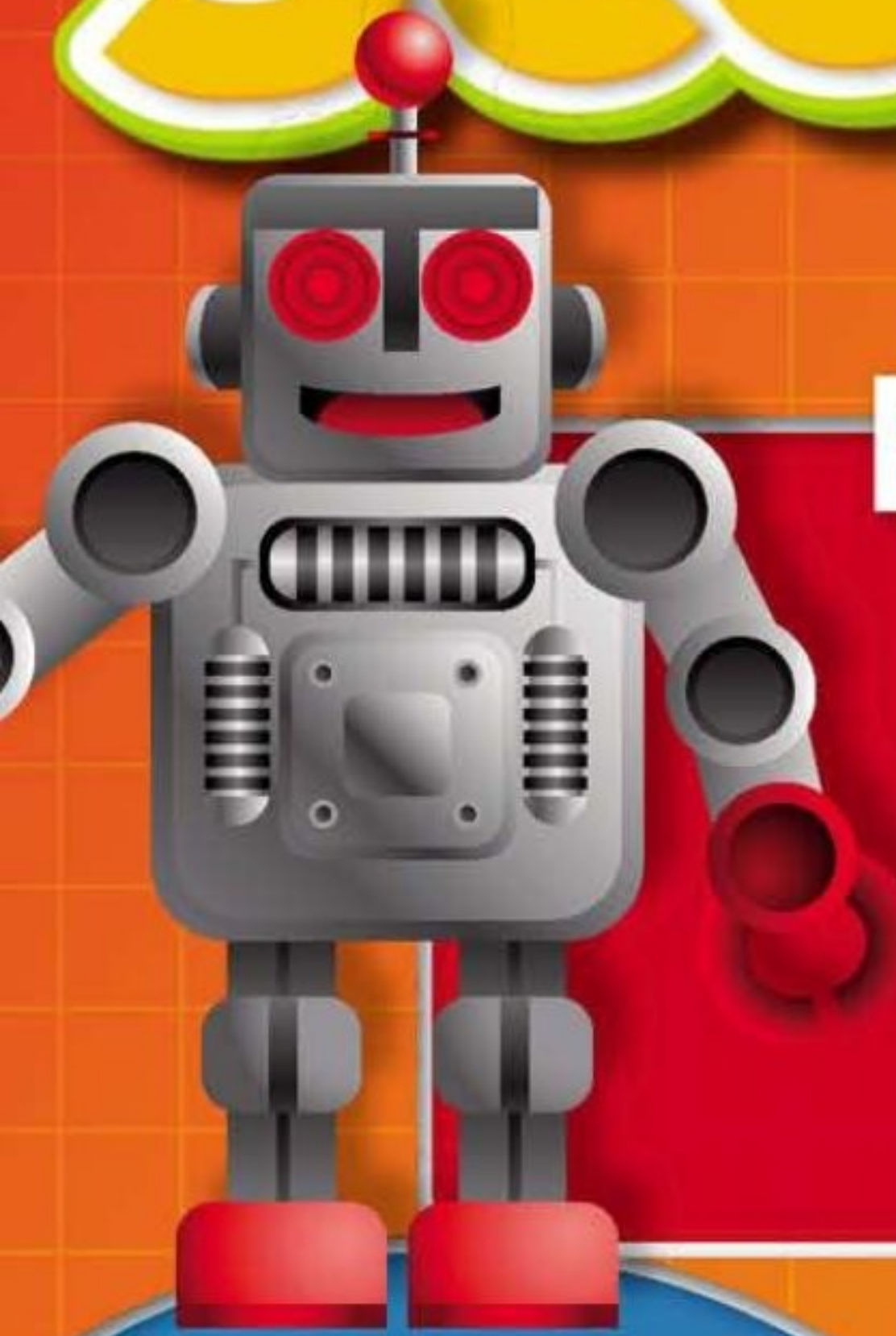
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Search for  
National Geographic  
Kids and click "add  
to basket."

**FOUR:**  
Go to the checkout,  
enter your credit card  
details and download  
your e-zine!

# {inside} scoop

**23**  
The year of the  
dragon starts



## TalkBot

How are you? I am fine, thank you. Really? No, not really. Why? I don't know. They are all mean to me... This sounds like a real conversation and in many ways it is, except that the second person is a robot. This robot, called Cleverbot, came quite close to passing something called the Turing Test. It's named after one of the first computer boffs, Alan Turing, who came up first with the idea that you could program a robot to think for itself. In the Turing Test a human has a texted five-minute conversation with a robot called a chatbot. The test for the robot is to fool his human buddy into believing he's human, too.

Every year designers take their chatbots to a competition where they try to fool the judges in a Turing Test. There's a gold medal worth about R800 000 for the chatbox that wins, but organisers are pretty certain Cleverbot and his rivals like Jabberwacky won't be claiming this prize any time soon. In 2012 the competition will be extra special as it celebrates the centenary of Alan Turing's birth in 1912.

It's your choice, NG KIDS! Do you want to learn more about chatbots? SMS\* "NGK chatbot" followed by yes or no to 33970.

## Hobbit in 3D

Watch out: the most expensive movie ever made is coming later this year! *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D* might cost more than R3,5 million to make. It will be directed by Peter Jackson who also did the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. The movie follows Bilbo Baggins the hobbit on his quest to get a share of the treasure guarded by the dragon Smaug.

His parents were English, but J.R.R Tolkien was born in Bloemfontein on 3 January 1892. When he was three, the family moved back to England. Years later he visited Hogsback in the Eastern Cape and that, some people believe, was where he got the idea for his famous book *The Lord of the Rings*.



Back to school for coastal provinces



Back to school for inland provinces



It's 2012! Here is the inside scoop on what's happening around the world this year. Tell us what you'd like to read more about in the coming year.

It's your choice! Do you want to learn more about Mayans? SMS\* "NGK Mayans" followed by yes or no to 33970.

### What the Dickens!

Charles Dickens lived in the 19th century. He was a famous author and his books are still widely read today – 200 years after he was born. They show what life was like in Victorian England, often for people who were badly off. Although Charles became wealthy and famous, things were not always so easy for him. Just after his 12th birthday his father was arrested for bad debt and the family except for Charles and his elder sister had to live in a debtor's prison. Since he had no money and his dad couldn't help him, Charles had to leave school and get a job. He ended up pasting labels on bottles in a rat-infested shoe polish factory for 12 hours a day.

### Mayan Myth

It's a leap year again! What's more, 2012 is the year the ancient calendar of the Maya people is supposed to end. Because of that some people believe a big change will come this year and it might be a bad one. NASA scientists were asked if there were any threats to our planet in 2012 and their answer was: nothing bad will happen. Earth has been getting along fine for more than 4 billion years and scientists worldwide know of no threat that is linked to the year 2012. Now that's a relief!

It's your choice! There will be an international campaign to mark the 200th anniversary of Charles' birth. Do you want to learn more? SMS "NGK Dickens" followed by yes or no to 33970.

Some of Charles' best-loved books are: *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol*.

### Read The Book!

*The Hobbit* was published in 1937 and got great reviews. It is still said to be one of the best fantasy books ever and is recommended for kids from 11 to 14 years.

The Olympic Games will take place in London in June and July.

Women's boxing will be the new one among the 26 sports at this year's Olympics.

London will be the first city to host the event three times.

We'll see 10 500 Olympic athletes and 4 200 Paralympic athletes going for gold.

It's your choice! Do you want to learn more about the Olympic Games? SMS\* "NGK Olympics" followed by yes or no to 33970.



SOME OF THE CAST OF THE HOBBIT

© JAMES FISHER/WARNER BROS. (THE HOBBIT); ISTOCKPHOTO (ROBOT, DRAGON, TEMPLE, DICKENS)

\*SMSs COST R1,50. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. VISIT WWW.NGKIDS.CO.ZA.

Olympics

Bet you  
**didn't  
know**

BY MEG WEAVER

**8** facts to light up  
your world

**1** A New Year's Eve celebration in Portugal included more than **65 000** fireworks.

**2** A Ferris wheel in California runs on solar power.

**3** The first lighthouse was three times taller than most of the ones today.

**4** Lightning flashes more than **30** times each second all over the world.

**5** Some jellyfish give off light to scare away predators.

**6** Light from the sun reaches Earth in **8,32** minutes; the space shuttle would take about

**220 days.**

**7** Antarctica can have **24 hours** of daylight in summer.

**8** Lemons can power lightbulbs.

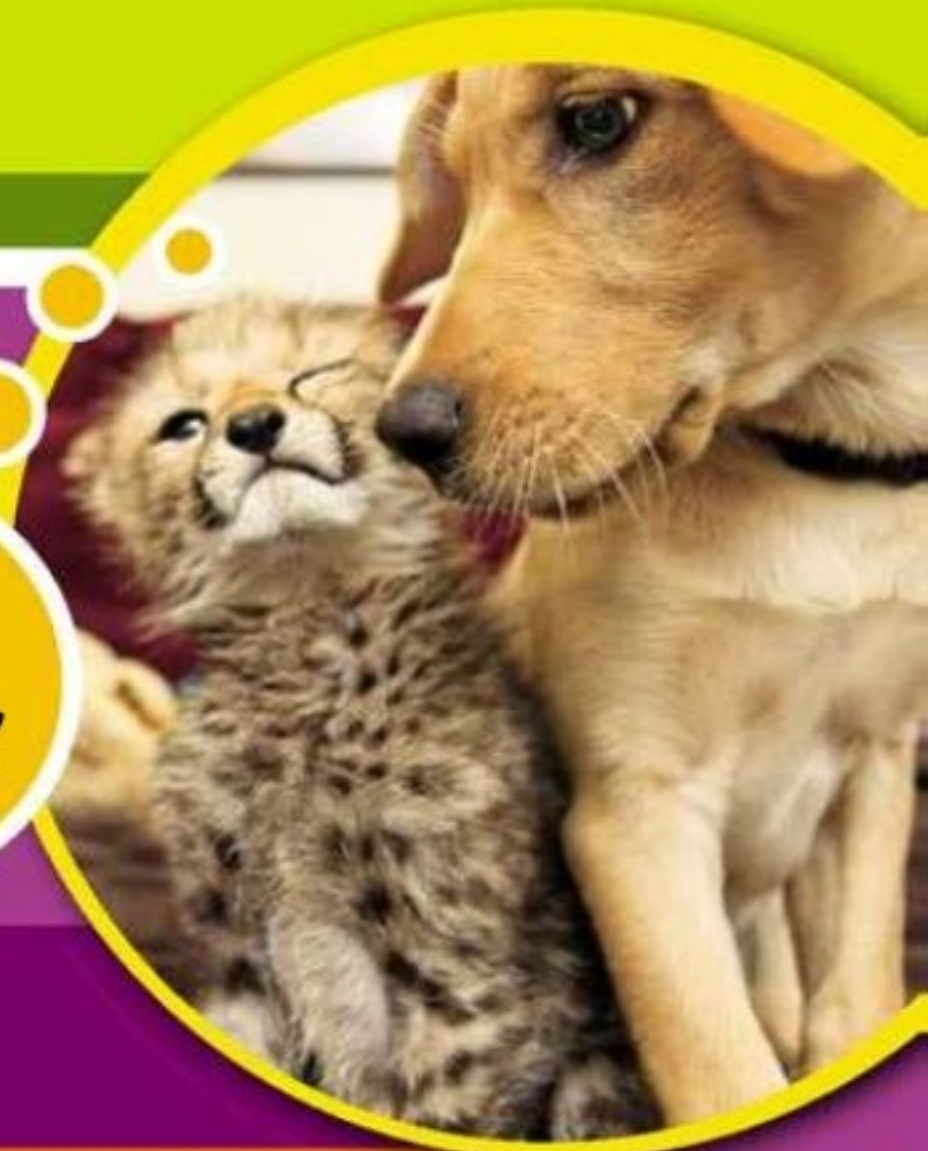




# Incredible Animal Friends

BY SARAH YOUNGSON

A LITTLE LESS SLOBBER, PLEASE!



## BABY CHEETAH GETS PET DOG

### Florida, America

Whenever Kasi the cheetah wants Mtani the Labrador retriever's attention, he chirps like a baby bird. Mtani responds by chasing Kasi's tail. "They absolutely love spending time together," says zoologist Mike Boos of Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, where the friends live.

The animals were introduced shortly after Kasi was abandoned by his mother. The baby cheetah was sad and alone, so caretakers found him a pal. They brought Mtani from an animal shelter and began supervising playdates for the pair.

Now Kasi and Mtani spend most of their days cuddling, rolling around in the grass of the park's cheetah habitat and playing tug-of-war with stuffed animal toys. They even share a large pillow when they snooze, with Kasi often falling asleep right on top of Mtani! If the cheetah is separated from his Lab friend, he chirps until the dog returns. Luckily the buddies have a lot of together time in their future: they've started travelling the country with their keepers, helping teach people about endangered animals such as cheetahs. "The two will be friends for life," says Mike.

### CHEETAH

**HEIGHT** 60 to 90 centimetres

**WEIGHT** 34 to 65 kilograms

**RANGE** Africa and part of the Middle East

**CLAIM TO FAME** These super-speedy big cats can go from 0 to 96 kilometres an hour in three seconds. Their 70-centimetre-long tails help them stay balanced during sprints.

**FUN TO KNOW** Cheetahs need to drink water only once every three to four days.



MTANI AND KASI ENJOY SOME PLAYTIME.

### LABRADOR RETRIEVER

**HEIGHT** 50 to 60 centimetres

**WEIGHT** 24 to 36 kilograms

**ORIGIN** Newfoundland, Canada

**CLAIM TO FAME** With their webbed feet and strong tails, Labs are great swimmers. They were first bred to retrieve fishing nets from the water.

**FUN TO KNOW** Some Labradors work with rescue teams to save people trapped by avalanches, floods or other natural disasters.



MATT MARRIOTT / BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA BAY (ALL)

# SUMMER activity pack



**BONUS!**  
Ten cool  
GIFTS inside

ON SALE AT SELECTED  
SPAR STORES NATIONWIDE  
**SPAR** 

# EXTREME WEIRDNESS

BY KAIT GALLAGHER

from **AROUND the WORLD**



weird-o-meter



## CARROT SPACE RANGER

**WHAT** Veggie shaped like Buzz Lightyear

**WHERE** Oxfordshire, England

**DETAILS** This carrot is creating a buzz. An Englishman found the vegetable in his garden and noticed its resemblance to Buzz Lightyear from the *Toy Story* movies. The carrot probably got its odd shape by growing around pebbles in the ground. It won't travel to infinity and beyond, but at least it escaped the kitchen cutting board.

FINDING A MR. POTATO HEAD LOOKALIKE SHOULDN'T BE HARD.

weird-o-meter



## BOAT UNZIPS WATER

**WHAT** Zip-shaped boat

**WHERE** Takamatsu, Japan

**DETAILS** Talk about a zippy ride. This zip-shaped motorboat was featured at an international art festival. It took inventor Yasuhiro Suzuki seven years to design and build the vessel, which can hold nine passengers. This boat is perfect for people who need to get somewhere on the fly.

IF ONLY THIS COULD ATTACH TO A GIANT BACK-PACK.



CLIVE WILLIAMS / SOLENT NEWS / REX / REX USA (CARROT); YASUHIRO UZUKI / REX / REX USA (BOAT)

## HAVE FUN AT SPIER

Spier is the ultimate family experience in the Western Cape winelands.



Play in the beautiful gardens and try fun

activities such as visiting the cheetah and birds of prey projects.

The Spier hotel has a supervised children's clubhouse where kids can play games or watch a DVD while parents enjoy treatments at the spa. It is a fun adventure for the entire family.

Visit [www.spier.co.za](http://www.spier.co.za) or call 021-809-1100 for more details.



## WIN WITH SPEEDO

Speedo SA has launched a new, colourful Learn to Swim range of swimwear and equipment for kids. The Sea Squad kit contains goggles, a swim cap and armbands.



You can win one of fifteen Learn to Swim kits valued at R330 each. E-mail your name, age and number to [info@leapcommunications.co.za](mailto:info@leapcommunications.co.za) and include "Speedo NG Kids Giveaway" in the subject heading. Available at selected shops. Call 021-461-0346 for more information. Ask your parents to "Like" the Speedo SA Facebook page and look out for regular competitions.

WIN!

## NAARTJIE KIDS HAVE STYLE

The truly South African brand Naartjie Kids has been designing colourful, comfortable, long-lasting and stylish kids clothing for over 24 years. With ten brand-new collections per year for all kids under ten, Naartjie has everything for kids on the go!



Visit [www.naartjie.co.za](http://www.naartjie.co.za) or call 021-448-3502 for more information.



\*SMSs cost R1.50. Free SMSs don't apply. Competition closes 17 January 2012.

# meet the eskom eta young designer winners!



etaAWARDS  
TURNING IDEAS INTO ENERGY

Sponsored by Eskom

For 22 years Eskom has been rewarding new ideas that can help to save electricity. By finding green, energy-efficient alternatives, we can save the planet one idea at a time! Meet the winners of the Young Designers category!

did you know?

Eta or the symbol  $\eta$  is the Greek symbol for efficiency.



## Winner

## runner-up



**WHO:** Greenwood Independent School in Plettenburg Bay  
**IDEA:** A green solution to a big problem in low-cost housing in South Africa

Greenwood Independent School in Plettenburg Bay was crowned the winner in the Young Designers category of the Eskom 2011 eta Awards. The team looked at the relationship between climate, building design and energy usage in RDP house design. Through a series of experiments back at school, they found that RDP houses had no insulation and precious heat would escape through the roofs and windows. The team also found that north-facing houses had a temperature rise of six degrees internally, compared to west-facing houses which had no temperature rise at all! Positioning and building the houses so they face north and insulating the roof would save a lot of energy! The team met the local mayor who said their findings "were a real eye-opener" to him and their research would be taken into account when new RDP houses are built. These young designers made a huge impact on their local environment and on the lives of township residents in the future.

**WHO:** Keegan Cordeiro, 16, White River  
**IDEA:** A solar-powered system to charge cell phones and other small appliances

Keegan designed and built a solar-powered system that can charge cell phones and run various small appliances that require 220 volts of alternating current and use a two-point plug. The solar panel charges a battery which is 12 volts DC (direct current) and the inverter charges the DC current to 220 volts AC (alternative current) which is needed by many appliances.



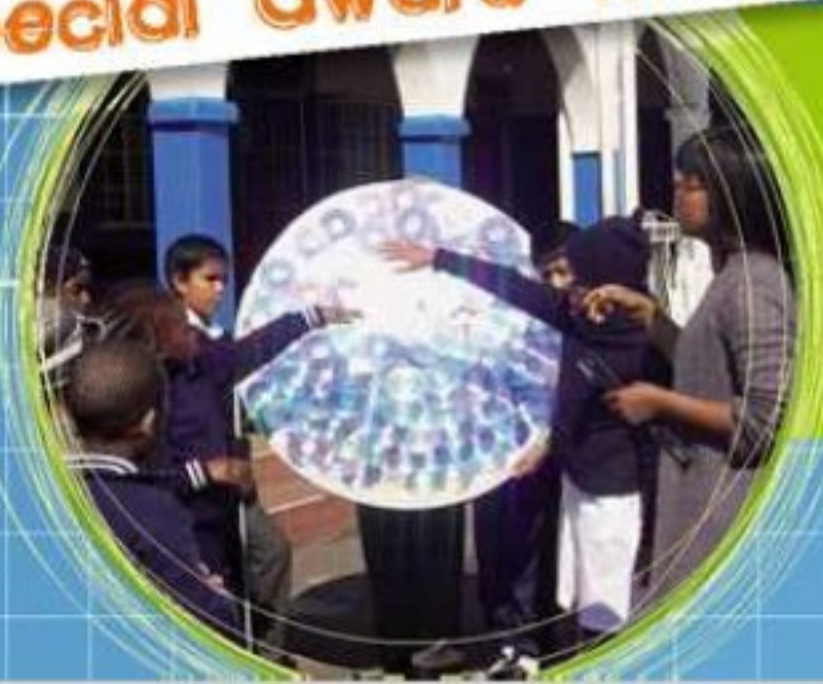
## runner-up



**WHO:** Laura Andreas, 16, Cape Town  
**IDEA:** A water purifier that generates electricity at the same time

Laura has built a solar furnace that takes the salt out of salt water and also generates electricity. She chose this project as she wanted to see if it is possible to desalinate water and generate electricity using only solar energy. Her solar-powered desalinating device heats salt water to boiling point, with the steam driving a turbine which generates electricity. By condensing the steam, it produces fresh, drinkable water!

## special award winners



**WHO:** The grade 4 class at Shri Vishnu Primary School in Pietermaritzburg  
**DESIGN:** The Solar Cooking Project

The class won a special award for developing a way to reduce energy use, while recycling everyday items found around the home. Using an old satellite dish and compact discs the class made a system that boils two litres of water in 25 minutes. Now you can prepare a meal while you are recycling!

Visit [www.eta-awards.co.za](http://www.eta-awards.co.za) to find out more about the eta Awards.

# RHINO

Rhinos are the powerhouses of the animal kingdom, but there are many dangers in the tall grass of the savanna. NG KIDS uncovers the secrets of the African rhinos.

## BLACK AND WHITE

In Africa there are two species of rhinoceros, the black and the white rhino. South Africa has about 20 000 white and 1 700 black rhino. You can tell them apart just by looking at their lips. White rhinos are grazers and have square lips for munching grass like cows. Black rhinos have a more hooked upper lip for pulling leaves off branches and are browsers like giraffes. While a rhino eats, small brown birds with red beaks perch on his back. These are oxpeckers. In Swahili they are known as “askari wa kifaru” which means “the rhino’s guard”. One theory is that the oxpecker grabs a meal by eating ticks from the rhino’s skin and may even warn of approaching danger as the rhino munches away. But the rhino needs more than this little bird’s help.

# MATTERS

BY FIONA THOMSON



WHITE RHINOS  
GRAZING.



OXPECKER  
HITCHING A RIDE

## THREAT TO RHINOS

Southern white rhinoceros were once found in large numbers across southern Africa. Their horns and thick skin protected them against predators like lion and hyena. In the 19th century they were almost wiped out by hunters. Their survival is a conservation success story as there were only 100 white rhinos left in the wild in 1895.

In the past few years poaching has become a big problem again. "One of the worst years for conservation in South Africa was 2010," says Dr David Mabunda, the Chief Executive of South African National Parks. A total of 333 rhinos were poached, most of them from the Kruger National Park. Last year was no better.

Most of the rhinos killed were white rhinos. People poach the rhino for its horns because of an Asian myth that the horn has special medicinal powers.

## WHITE RHINO

The white rhino is the world's largest land animal after the elephant and is one of the Big Five. The males can weigh over two tons. Rhinos are social animals and hang out in crashes or herds of 10 to 15 animals, often with a dominant male who is territorial. When he greets another male, they will lock horns, slowly lower their heads to the ground and then lock horns again. They communicate by making sounds such as squeaks, squeals and low grumbles. When they are in a good mood rhinos rub their sides against one another's. Rhino mums are pregnant for a year, so it takes a long time for their numbers to rise. At birth the calf weighs between 45 and 55 kilograms.

## BLACK RHINO

The black rhino is as grey as the white rhino, but it is smaller and has a hooked mouth. It is not nearly as social as its cousin and prefers to roam alone, although a mother and her calf will spend short periods of time together. The black rhino is known to be very fierce and quickly charges when under threat.

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are five species of rhino. Two are found in Africa and the other three in Asia. The African species and the Sumatran rhino have two horns. The two other Asian rhinos only have one horn.

NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY HORN - IT'S JUST KERATIN.



## NG KIDS READER ASKS THE QUESTIONS!

Stuart Davis (13) from Glenashley Preparatory School in Durban interviewed Braam Malherbe about rhinos. Braam is an honorary ranger for South African National Parks and has been involved in training rangers for operations against poaching.

**Stuart:** Why do rhinos mean so much to you?

**Braam:** Not only are they one of Africa's Big Five, they represent something ancient that has been here for a long, long time. All humans originally came from Africa, so, we are all connected to Africa no matter where we live. Rhino poaching is a symbol of man's greed and ignorance. There is no medicinal value in the horn. It's made up of keratin just like a human fingernail. So you might as well chew your fingernails instead of killing a rhino for its horn!

**Stuart:** When did you fall in love with rhinos?

**Braam:** Seeing them for the first time as a young boy. It was early morning and the smells of the bush were all around. We were walking and all of a sudden a rhino cow and her calf stood up from their sleep in the long grass. The air was crisp and I will never forget the mist coming from their nostrils as they sniffed the air for any threat. We were downwind, so they could not smell us and their eyesight is poor. It was a special and humbling experience!

**Stuart:** Do you believe we are doing our best to prevent rhino poaching?

**Braam:** We are trying hard but we can always do better. Life is about improvement. Everyone should be involved, from children to adults to governments. Laws must be changed and enforced, both in South Africa and in the Eastern countries. There is not just one solution but many and we need to explore and use all options together.

**Stuart:** What fascinates you about rhinos?

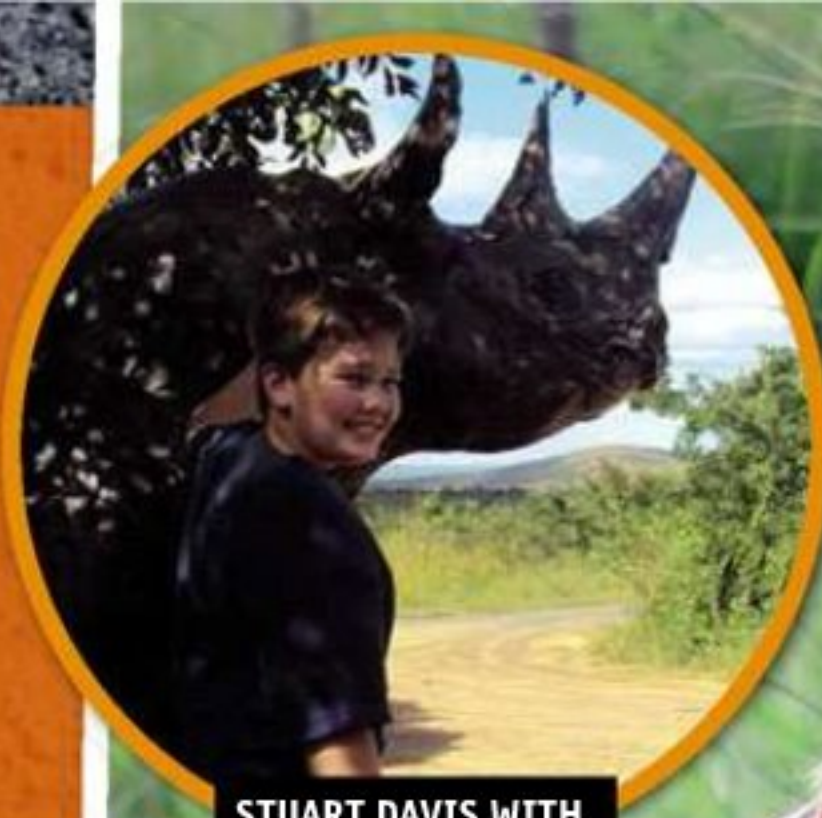
**Braam:** They are strong and powerful, yet gentle, innocent creatures that mean no harm to anything unless hurt or threatened – a little like humans, but without the greed.

**Stuart:** Who do you respect the most in the anti-rhino poaching world?

**Braam:** Many people are doing great work, but I guess it's the "foot soldiers". These are the guys who walk long-distance patrols in dangerous areas, tracking the poachers. They are not well paid and yet they put their lives on the line to protect our precious wildlife.

**Stuart:** What can kids do to help in the effort against rhino poaching?

**Braam:** Be a voice, be heard. Make posters at school and tell people how you feel. Raise funds for a cause but make sure the money goes to a credible organisation like the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) or WWF.



STUART DAVIS WITH A RHINO SCULPTURE.



BRAAM WITH ONE OF HIS ANIMAL FRIENDS.

# FOX

# Rescue

## Four tiny orphans find a new mum.

BY SCOTT ELDER

**H**ungry and cold, a baby red fox cautiously emerges from its hiding place. The little fox, called a kit, follows the scent of its missing mother onto a wooden deck behind a house, but the scent trail mysteriously ends there. Unsure what to do next, the kit stays there, breathing in the comforting reminder of its parent.

Sandra Schulte passes a window in her home in Regina, Canada and catches a glimpse of something on her neighbour's deck. "I saw something greyish moving around," she says. The critter is so small that Sandra thinks it's a little gopher. She steps outside to get a closer look. It's a tiny, shivering fox.

Sandra realises right away why the kit is drawn to that spot. One week before, an adult female fox had died right where the kit is sniffing. Animal control officer Ryan Johnston, who'd been called in to remove the dead fox said she might have kits hidden somewhere. Neighbours didn't see or hear baby foxes – until now.

Thrilled that the kit has survived, Sandra calls Ryan with the news. But before Ryan arrives, the kit retreats back to its hiding place. He shines his torch under the low deck and spots four fuzzy kits huddled together against the house. He catches them all and leaves them in a cardboard box with Sandra and her husband, who agreed to keep the kits in their warm garage overnight until other arrangements could be made.

kits are dangerously undernourished and dehydrated. "I was worried about them," Cheryl says. She rushes the little foxes to her facility and gives them fluids every two hours for 24 hours straight. Happily the kits' health begins to improve.

### FOSTER FAMILY

Once the kits regain a healthy body temperature, Cheryl begins feeding them a nutritious formula made specially for young foxes. Soon she begins to add solid food to their diet, including small mice and soft cat food. In just one week at the rehabilitation centre, the orphaned foxes double in weight.

Now that their condition is stable, Winkler introduces the kits to Rose, an adult fox who lives at the facility permanently. Because of poor vision, Rose can't survive in the wild, but Cheryl hopes she can help raise the kits "the fox way." After some sniffing through the fence, Rose gradually spends more time with the orphans and a bond grows between the kits and their foster mum.

Soon Rose stands guard over their enclosure, calls the kits to meals of mice and berries and grumbles warnings to her foster family about unfamiliar humans. "It's absolutely incredible the way her motherly instincts came out," Cheryl says.

The healthy fear of people and other survival skills that Rose teaches the kits are essential when Cheryl releases the foxes into the wild. She simply opens their enclosure and allows the matured kits to explore the neighbouring Moose Mountain Provincial Park.

Cheryl will put out food until the foxes master hunting and foraging. And the four siblings will always be welcome to visit Rose, their affectionate foster mother.

### LITTLE FOXES



### WHAT NEXT?

The foxes had spent a week without food in nearly freezing temperatures. The Schultes contact Cheryl Winkler, founder of Moose Mountain Recoup and Release Wildlife Rehabilitation, to find out what they should do next. Cheryl advises the Schultes to cover the kits with warm towels and arranges to take the orphans. "They didn't look that bad, but looks are deceiving," Cheryl says. "They were all fur and bones." She estimates that the two males and two females are about five weeks old. The smallest one weighs only 400 grams, less than half what a fox its age should weigh. All four

le



FOSTER MUM



HAPPY FAMILY



**MYTH****ELEPHANTS ARE AFRAID OF MICE.****HOW IT MAY HAVE STARTED**

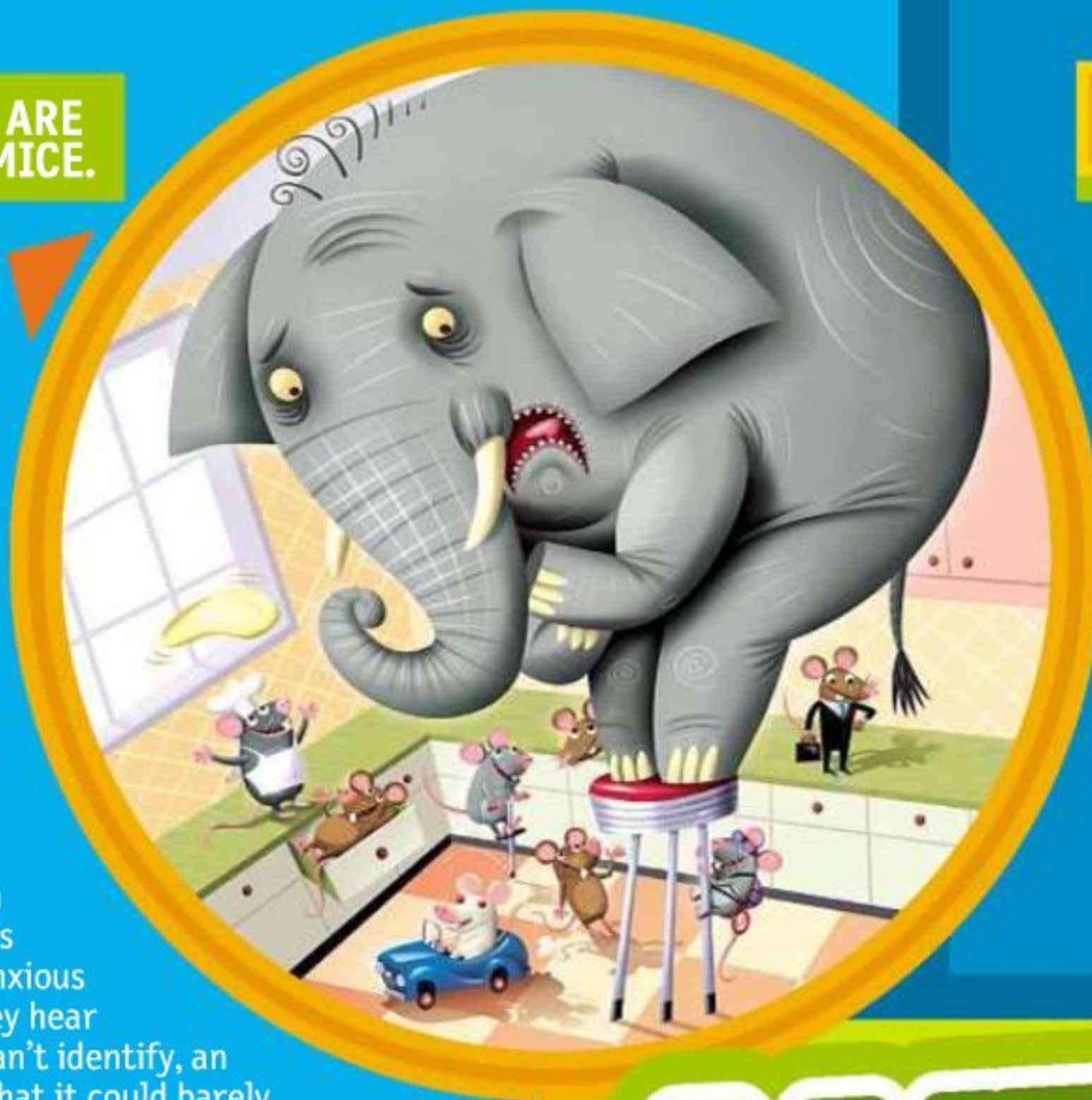
People used to think that mice

liked to crawl into an elephant's trunk. "They thought that would cause great damage and terrible sneezing," says Jack Hanna of the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, America. So it makes sense that elephants would be afraid of the rodents.

**WHY IT'S NOT TRUE**

Although elephants do get anxious when they hear

pitter-pattering sounds they can't identify, an elephant's eyesight is so poor that it could barely even see a mouse. And if an elephant isn't afraid to live among predators such as tigers, rhinos and crocodiles, a mouse would be the least of its worries!

**MYTH****BULLS CHARGE WHEN THEY SEE RED.****HOW IT MAY HAVE STARTED**

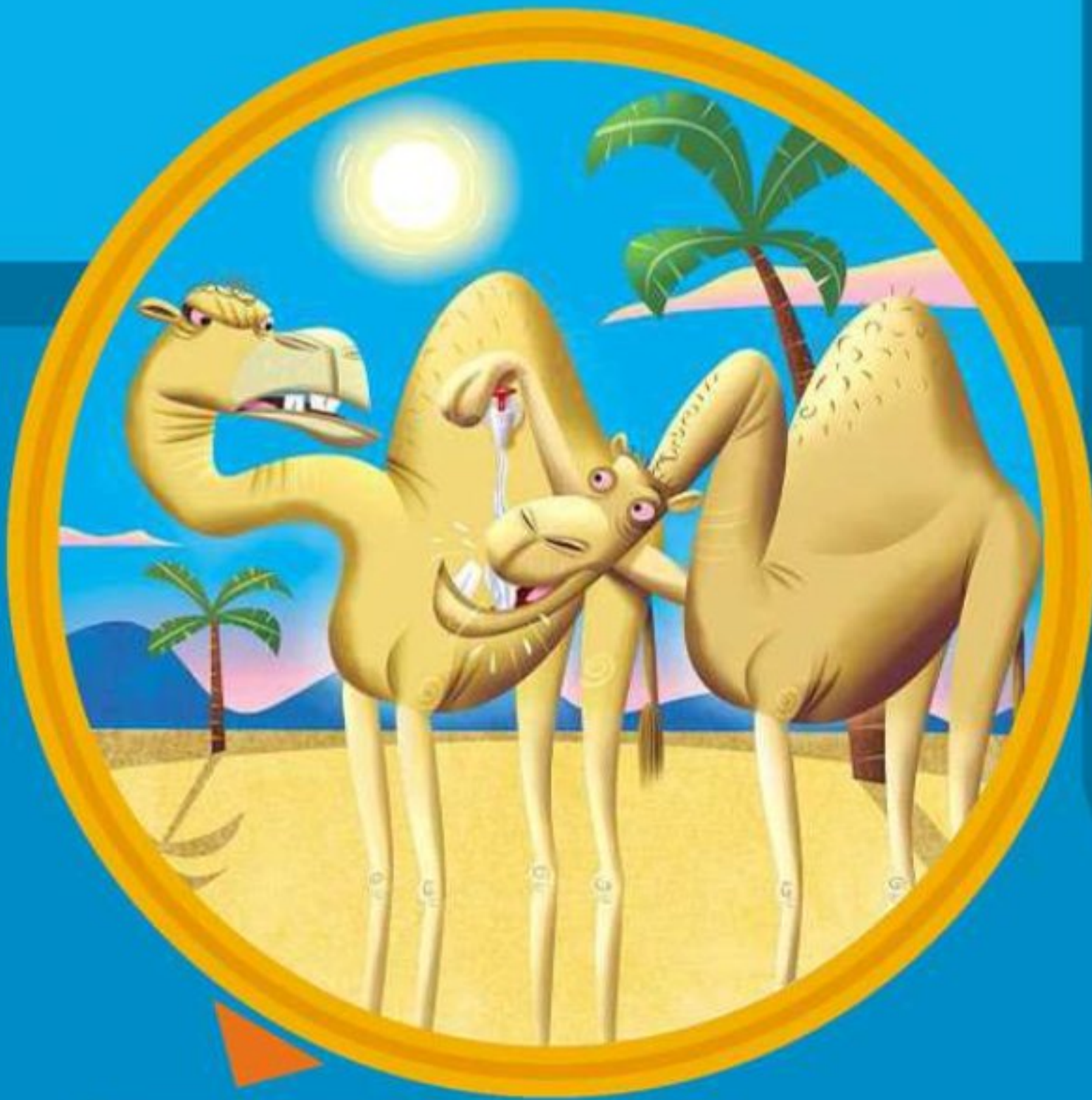
Traditionally a red cape is part of a bullfighter's colourful costume. When the bullfighter flashes the cape at the bull, the bull charges.

**WHY IT'S NOT TRUE**

Movement actually makes a bull charge. "I've seen bulls

chase everything from red to blue to checks," says Temple Grandin of Colorado State University in America. "It's the motion of the bullfighter's cape, not the colour."

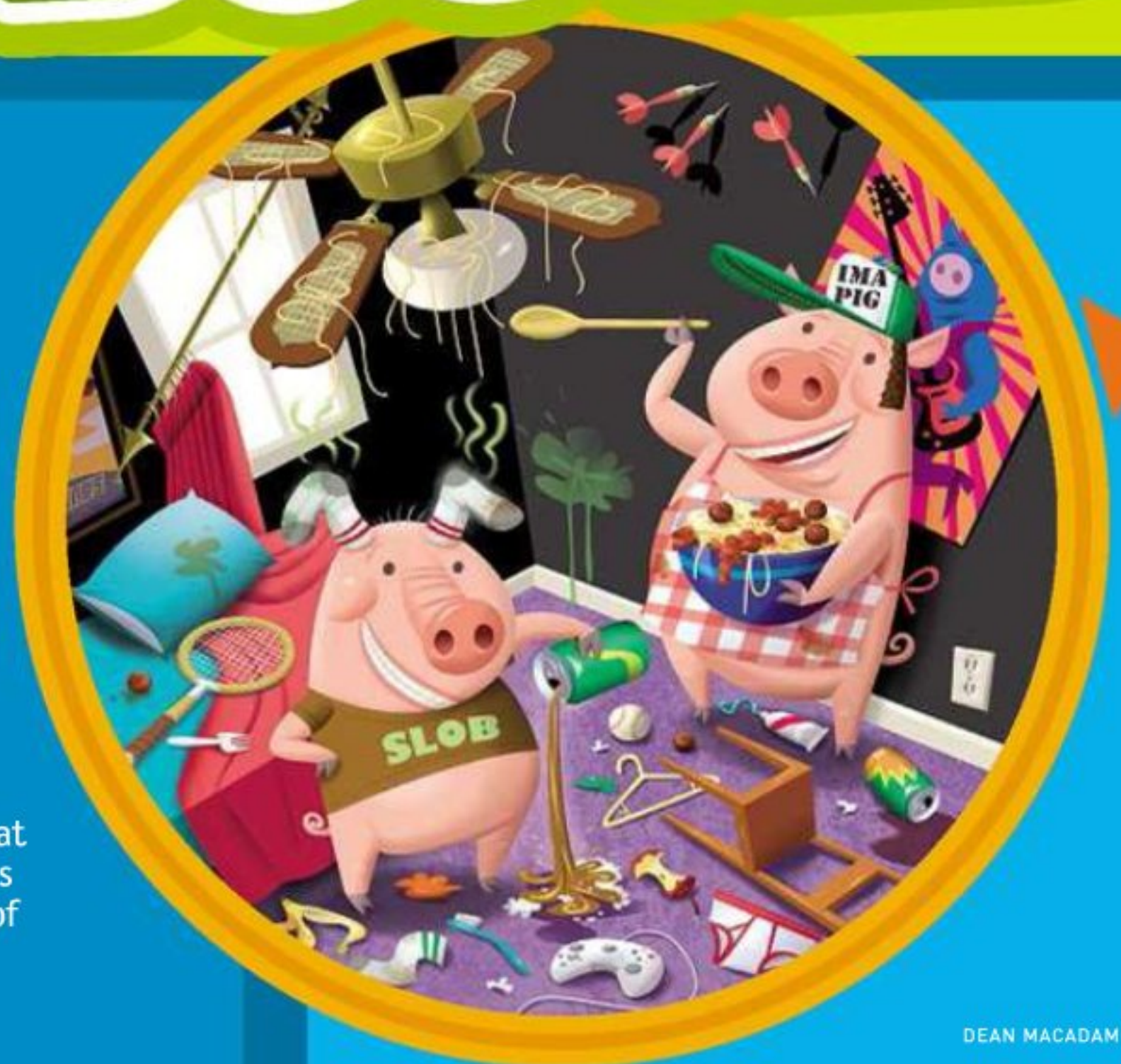
# ANIMAL MYTHS BUSTED

**MYTH****A CAMEL'S HUMP HOLDS WATER****HOW IT MAY HAVE STARTED**

Thousands of years ago, desert nomads probably noticed how far a camel could travel without water. They might have assumed its hump stored extra H<sub>2</sub>O.

**WHY IT'S NOT TRUE**

Few animals can last a week without water, but a camel can survive up to two weeks. One reason is that a camel can get extra moisture from fat – and that's what is stored in its hump. "The hump is composed of up to 36 kilograms of fat for nourishment," Jack says.





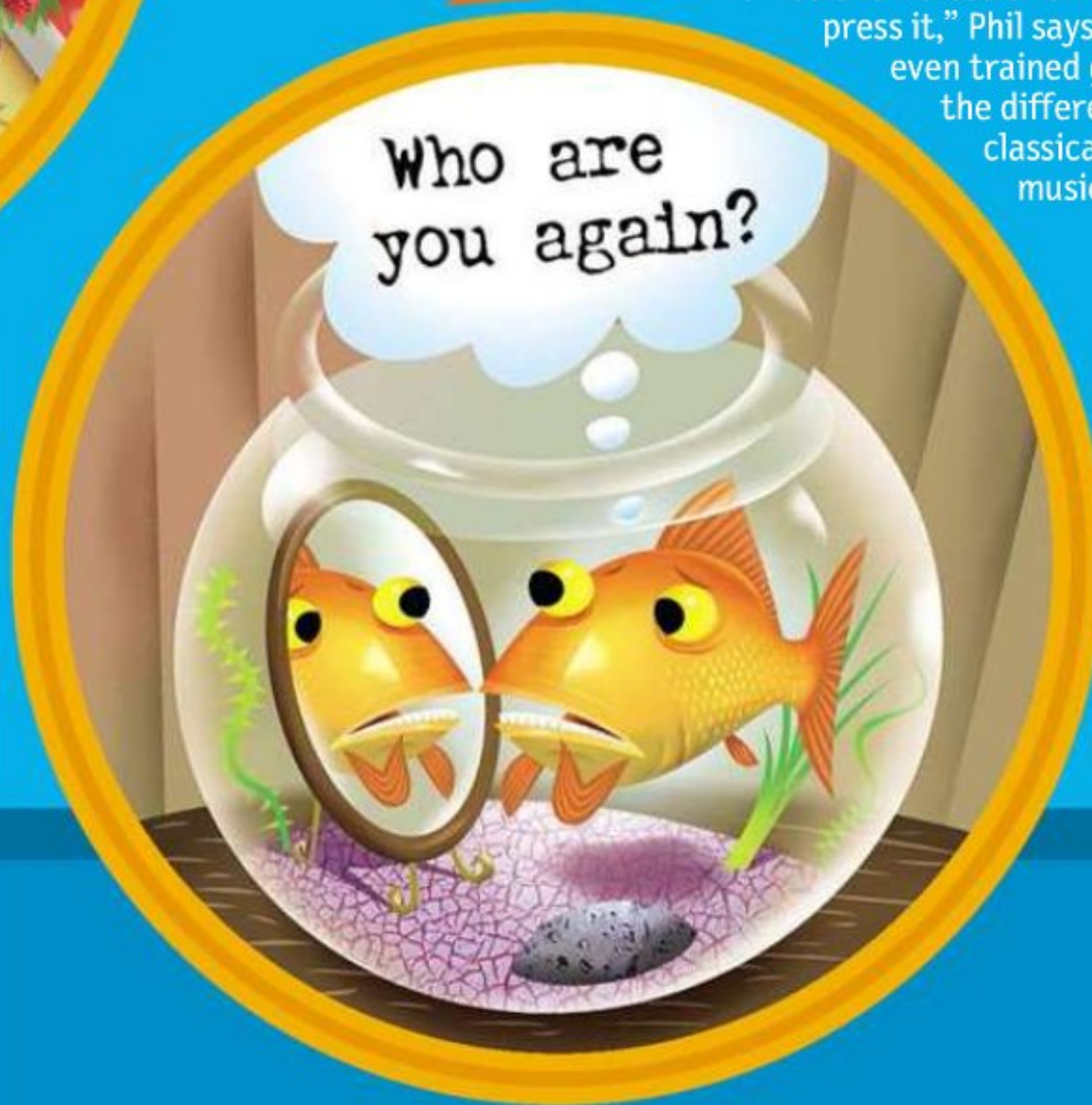
**MYTH** GOLDFISH HAVE ONLY A THREE-SECOND MEMORY.

**HOW IT MAY HAVE STARTED**

While an adult human's brain weighs about two kilograms, an average goldfish's brain weighs only a tiny fraction of that. So how could there be any room for memory in there?

**WHY IT'S NOT TRUE**

Research has shown that goldfish are quite smart. Phil Gee of the University of Plymouth in England trained goldfish to push a lever that dropped food into their tank. "They remembered the time of day that the lever worked and waited until feeding time to press it," Phil says. One scientist even trained goldfish to tell the difference between classical and blues music!



**NG KIDS PUTS THESE TALL TALES TO THE TEST.**

BY C.M. TOMLIN

Some people mistakenly think adult opossums hang by their tails, or that porcupines shoot their quills. What other wrong ideas are out there? NG KIDS checked out some common animal myths.

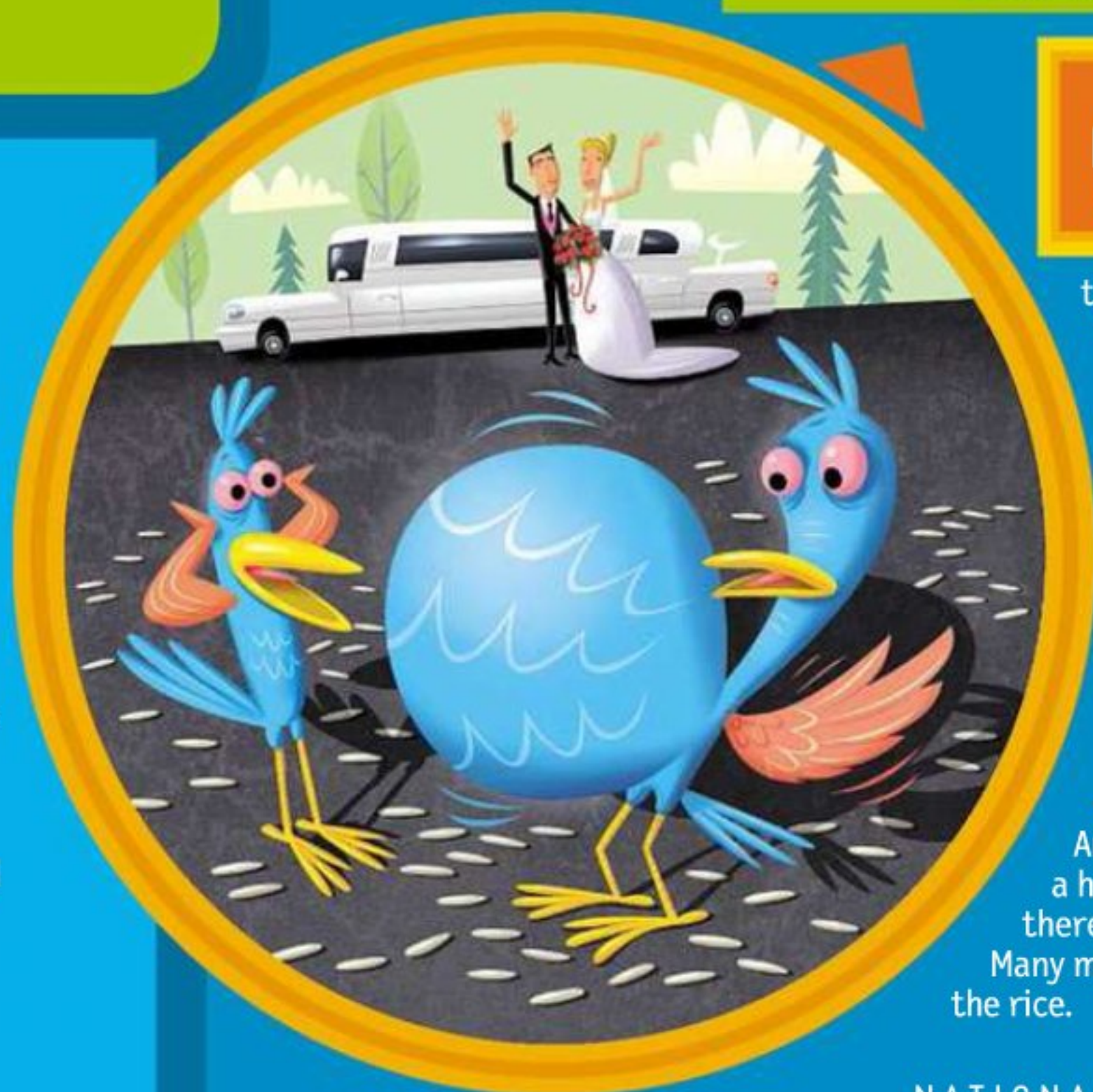
**MYTH** IF A BIRD EATS RICE, ITS STOMACH WILL EXPLODE.

**HOW IT MAY HAVE STARTED**

Because dry rice expands when cooked, people probably thought a bird's stomach would expand with it. A more likely reason for this myth was to stop wedding guests from throwing rice, which makes the ground slippery for humans.

**WHY IT'S NOT TRUE**

"A bird's stomach doesn't reach the boiling point necessary for rice to expand," says Erin Estell of the National Aviary in America. So the rice would never get to a harmful size. And if this myth were true, there would be a lot fewer birds in the world. Many migrate through rice fields and feed on the rice.



**MYTH** PIGS ARE FILTHY.

**HOW IT MAY HAVE STARTED**

Yes, pigs wallow in the mud. Things can get messy.

**WHY IT'S NOT TRUE**

Being muddy doesn't mean a pig is not clean, says Harry Snelson of

the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. Long ago, pigs learned to use mud to meet their needs: it's a natural sunscreen, an insect repellent and a way to keep cool. Pigs are so clean that they refuse to "go" where they sleep.



# MYSTERY

## of the BURIED TREASURE



Archaeologists aren't sure what this gold horse was used for. But the detailed craftsmanship shows how artistic the Anglo-Saxons were.

**AN ANCIENT STASH OF GOLD AND SILVER WORTH MILLIONS IS UNCOVERED IN A FARMER'S FIELD.**

BY MOLLY LYONS

**B**EEP! The man stops suddenly as his metal detector makes a sound. Something is buried under the English field he's been exploring. Is it a worthless piece of metal – or something far more valuable?

It's valuable. The man's discovery turns out to be more than 3 500 pieces of gold and silver treasure buried by ancient warriors at least 1 300 years ago. Archaeologists uncovered sword handles, helmet pieces and shield decorations. Some were studded with jewels or engraved with animals.

The treasure is worth about R40 million. But archaeologists are more excited about what the discovery could tell us about these ancient warriors.

### MYSTERIOUS PEOPLE

The treasure was buried by people called the Anglo-Saxons, who settled in England after arriving from Germany starting around AD 410. The Anglo-Saxons were constantly at war – both with each other and with neighbouring lands. They ruled until about 1066, when French invaders called Normans overthrew them.

In the seventh century the most powerful Anglo-Saxon ruler was King Penda of Mercia. Archaeologists like Kevin Leahy, who studied the buried gold and silver, think the treasure may have belonged



**CHEEK PIECE**  
This helmet fragment protected a warrior during battle.

**POMMEL**  
This knob formed the very top of a hilt, or handle, of a knife.

**COLLAR, RING AND CAP**  
Made of gold, these were attached to the knife's pommel.

**HILT FITTING**  
Decorated with red gemstones called garnets, this piece was the bottom part of the handle.

**PIECES FROM THE PAST**  
Scientists have tried to identify the real-life uses of the mysterious treasure. Here's how they match up in this artist's rendering of an Anglo-Saxon warrior.

to the king. It could have been plunder won in battle, or it might have been part of the king's treasury. No one is sure.

The Anglo-Saxons lived in the Dark Ages, once believed to be a time when little was happening in art or culture. But the treasure helps confirm that the Anglo-Saxon period was a time of great change and amazing artistry.

**SECRETS OF THE TREASURE**

Anglo-Saxons were considered fierce warriors and they cared about their weapons. But the quality of the metalwork shows they were also artists. Craftsmen created tiny, detailed engravings without magnifying lenses. Some of the materials came from faraway lands. Garnets most likely came from India and gold may have come from what is now Turkey.

The treasure may also shed new light on where Anglo-Saxons lived. The loot was found in western England, rather than

the south or east, where archaeologists believed early Anglo-Saxons settled.

That may mean the people had travelled further than once thought.

Still archaeologists have more questions than answers: why were only parts of weapons found? Why weren't there any items belonging to women? Was the treasure buried for safekeeping or to mark a victory? Why didn't they come back for it?

The answers to these mysteries may come with further study, but more than anything, this discovery has brought the people of the Anglo-Saxon era to life. "It's like travelling through time to realise that someone had touched these things centuries before," Kevin says. "One thing is certain: these people wanted to be remembered." Now it's up to archaeologists to figure out their secrets.

**TREASURE-HUNTING TOOLS**

Scientists used modern technology to examine the ancient treasure.

**COMPUTERS** The gold and silver pieces were scanned into a computer so scientists could analyse them.

**X-RAY FLUORESCENCE** X-rays produced energy waves that scientists could measure to instantly know what the treasure was made of.

**ELECTRON MICROSCOPES** These zoom in on the finest details. When the treasure was being cleaned, the microscopes were connected to video cameras so scientists could watch the etchings emerge.

ROBERT CLARK (TREASURE PIECES, ALL); DANIEL DOCIU / SOURCE: KEVIN LEAHY / PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME (ART)



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC  
**KIDS**







## Burchell's zebra

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC  
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# Rhinoceros hornbill



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# Check out these outrageous facts.

**A tightrope walker is called a funambulist.**

**LAWS IN ENGLAND WERE WRITTEN IN FRENCH FOR MORE THAN 400 YEARS.**



**A flamingo can eat only when its head is upside down.**

**THE DEAD SEA IS SEVEN TIMES SALTIER THAN ANY OCEAN.**

**OUR UNIVERSE HAS NO CENTRE.**

**Yawns are contagious for chimpanzees, just as they are for humans.**



**You can buy an inflatable TV Screen.**



**Some mushrooms glow in the dark.**

**THE TEMPERATURE ON THE MOON CAN BE HOTTER THAN BOILING WATER.**

# Snow Leopard **SECRETS**

**High-tech tools  
help scientists  
understand  
how to save  
these big cats.**

BY KAREN DE SEVE

**S**ilent and sleek, a snow leopard climbs to a rocky ledge high in the mountains of Mongolia. A springtime breeze carries a whiff of prey to her nose. She spots an ibex—a wild goat—on the steep, rugged slope below. There are few places to hide, but snow leopards are masters of stealth. The big cat stalks her prey, moving like a ghostly shadow against the mountainside.

Suddenly the ibex is startled and sprints across the cliffs as the snow leopard springs downhill in pursuit. The air is thin at an altitude of nearly 3 000 metres, but the cat's large lungs and wide nose help her breathe. She holds out her long, wide tail for balance as her big, padded paws grip the ground. A minute later, she has secured her meal and looks for a place to dine.

These big cats are nearly impossible to see. Their spotted coats act as cloaks of invisibility by blending into the rocky background. But hunting scenes like these have been captured on video by researchers who spend countless hours searching the mountains of Central Asia for snow leopards.



#### NAME GAME

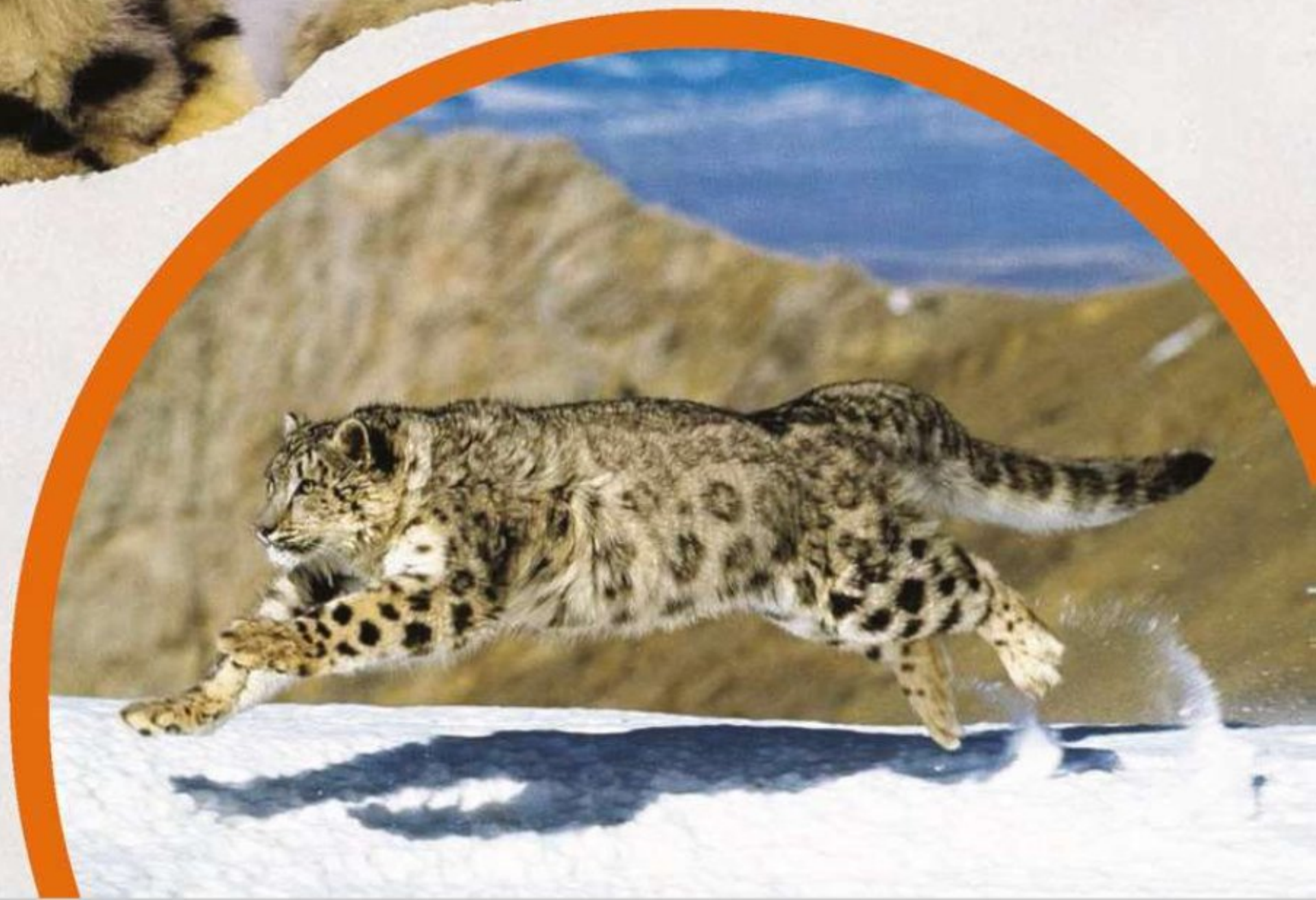
Despite their name, snow leopards are not white. Their spotted grey or beige fur actually stands out against a snowy background – but blends in with rocks.

#### PASSPORTS, PLEASE

Snow leopards live in twelve Central Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Their range spans over five million square kilometres, which is about half the size of Greenland.

#### QUIET KITTIES

Even though they are big cats, snow leopards have small voices. They mew, growl and puff ... but they can't roar.



# EVEN THOUGH SNOW LEOPARDS LIVE IN SOME OF THE MOST TERRAIN ON EARTH, PEOPLE POSE THE BIGGEST THREAT TO

Researchers think only 3 500 to 7 000 snow leopards exist in the wild, but no one knows for sure. Snow leopard experts need to gather more information about the elusive cats' lives to help protect them. Researchers use high-tech tools to spy on the secretive snow leopards. They gently trap the wild cats to examine them and put on satellite radio collars to track where the cats roam. Motion-activated digital cameras capture images of snow leopards, exposing many new details about how many there are, how they live and what threatens their survival.

## The Real Threat

Even though snow leopards live in some of the most rugged mountain terrain on Earth, people pose the biggest threat to their survival. Poachers can sell a snow leopard's hide and bones for thousands of rands. Herdsmen often kill any snow leopard that attacks their livestock. Hunters target ibex, wild sheep and other animals for food and trophies – removing important snow leopard prey.

Researchers like Tom McCarthy, a snow

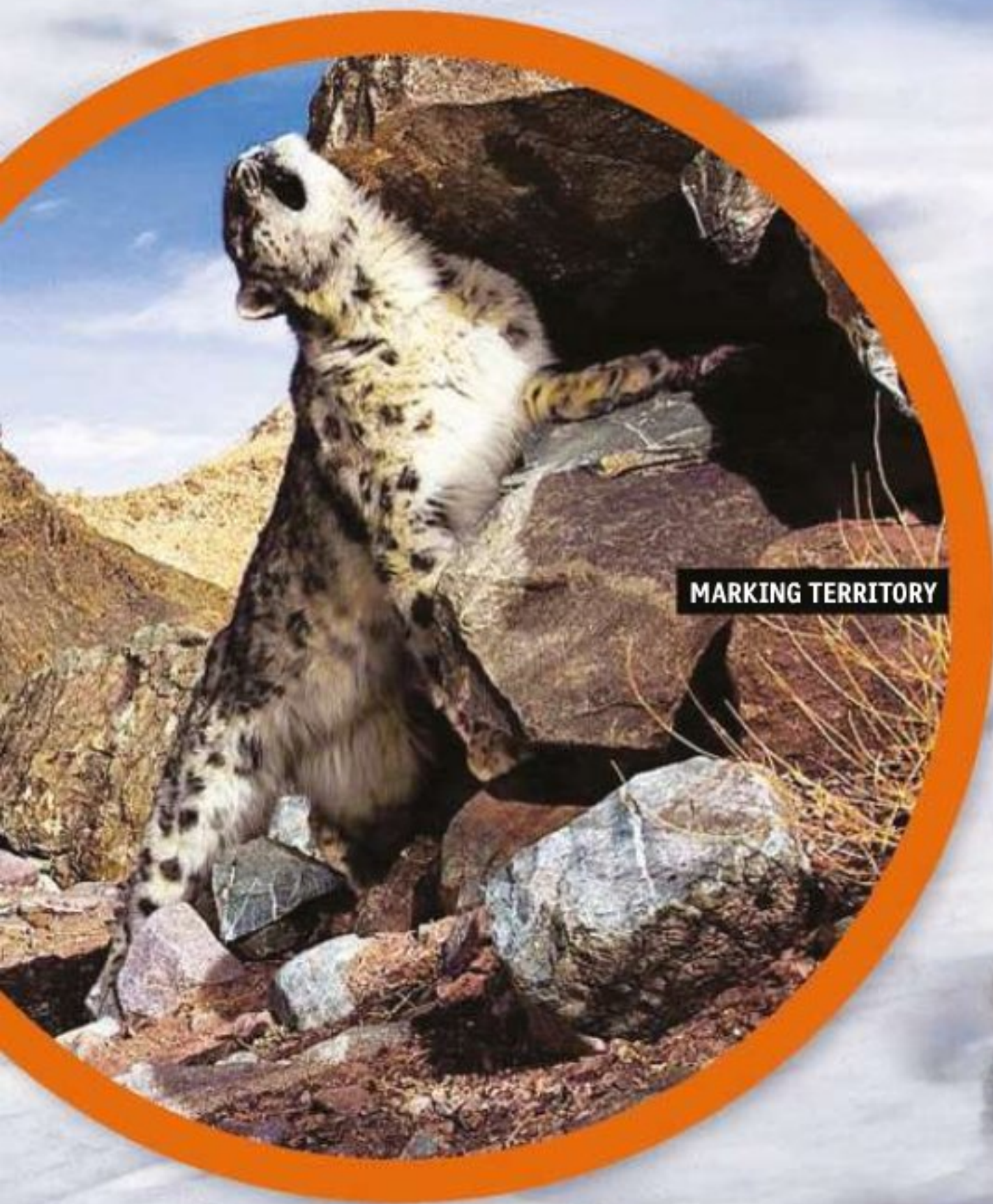
leopard expert with the conservation group Panthera, are trying to stop these activities to save the snow leopards that remain in the wild. The more Tom can learn about snow leopards, the better he can protect them.

But camouflaged snow leopards are hard to follow in the steep mountains of Central Asia. Tom is tracking eight cats that his team has fitted with radio collars. Like having eyes in the sky, Tom uses a satellite to gather details from a cat's collar so he can keep up with its movements. "The habitat is rugged," he says. "With better equipment, we can follow the cats."

At a high altitude study site, Tom follows the signal from a radio collar that hasn't moved in a couple of days. He suspects it fell off a female snow leopard. Suddenly the snow leopard explodes out from behind a bush about six metres away. The big cat lands at Tom's feet and a split second later her powerful hind legs send her bounding to the ridge above him. In a flash, she is gone, still wearing the collar.

"This must be what an ibex feels like," thinks Tom, his heart pounding. Weighing just under a hundred kilograms, an adult snow leopard could easily bring down a person.

"If that had been a tiger or lion or any other big cat, I wouldn't be here to talk about it," Tom says. The snow leopard's docile nature is a plus for him. Local herdsmen and hunters also know that snow leopards don't attack humans, which makes them easy to kill. But high-tech tracking devices mean he can learn new





# RUGGED MOUNTAIN THEIR SURVIVAL.

things about how and where they live, which helps conservation efforts.

## Social Networking

On a cool summer night, a snow leopard walks into a popular scraping site. This lone, mature male curiously sniffs an overhanging boulder for a strong scent sprayed by other cats. He rubs his cheek on the boulder, scrapes the ground with his hind paws and then urinates on it.

Scraping sites are the snow leopard version of Facebook. "When users go on Facebook, they tell others what they're doing. Snow leopards use 'Scrapebook,'" says Koustubh Sharma, a researcher with Snow Leopard Trust. "They scrape and urinate on it and that's how they communicate. It may reveal whether a snow leopard is male or female, has cubs, or is looking for a mate." The next snow leopard that visits the site will get to know a lot about others in the area.

Koustubh keeps scraping sites under surveillance using motion-activated cameras. Like a snow leopard reality TV show, cameras expose everything that

happens. "We see cubs playing in front of the camera while their mom spends time around," he says. The camera images help researchers count the number of snow leopards in an area and reveal whether prey animals, livestock or poachers are nearby.

In many places winter weather forces snow leopards down to lower land to follow prey that has gone to warmer elevations in search of food. There the cats compete with people over the available food supply.

With prey animals becoming scarce, one

young male snow leopard starts across an open desert to find new hunting grounds on a mountain range 80 kilometres away. As he heads across the rocky landscape, his camouflaged coat makes him disappear, but his tracking collar tells scientists where he goes. Technology such as this is essential to help researchers like Tom and Koustubh protect this snow leopard, other cats like him and their habitat.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Big Cats Initiative

Cheetahs, lions, tigers and other wild cats need protection. Learn more about big cats and National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative online. [kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/big-cats/](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/big-cats/) or [ngbigcats.org](https://ngbigcats.org)



THE TRUTH BEHIND  
THE NEW MOVIE

# Dolphin Tale

*Dolphin Tale* was filmed on location in Florida, including Winter's home at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. It's motto is "Rescue, Rehabilitate and Return."

To get Winter used to being filmed, the crew placed fake cameras made out of pipes, boxes and water jugs around her pool.

BY JANI COETZEE

**W**hen a young dolphin is caught in a trap, her tail gets badly damaged. Luckily she is found by a team of people who do everything they can to save this brave little dolphin. It will take the expertise of a dedicated marine biologist, a brilliant prosthetics doctor and the friendship of a young boy to bring about a miracle. NG KIDS goes behind the scenes of the movie *Dolphin Tale*.

SAWYER AND DR CLAY HASKETT FEEDING WINTER.



WINTER LOVES PLAYING.

## TRUE TAIL

The movie tells the true story of Winter, a two-month old dolphin who got caught in a crab trap. Only a baby and weighing 30 kilograms, the dolphin struggled to breathe. She was transported to the Clearwater Marine Hospital where her fight for survival began. Her tail was severely damaged and had to be amputated. She wasn't expected to live.

Winter the dolphin stars as herself in the movie and soon charmed everyone working on the set. Her favourite crew member was the underwater camera man. She liked to sneak behind the camera and nuzzle up to him.

## COOL EXPERT DOLPHIN FACTS

The largest dolphin is the orca, or "killer whale".

Dolphins use a technique called echolocation, which works like radar, to find food and navigate.

The bottlenose dolphin's brain weighs 1,5 to 1,6 kilograms.

## DOCTOR DOOLITTLE

In the movie Dr Ken McCarthy is giving the seeming impossible task to create a prosthetic tail for Winter. In the true story Dr Kevin Carrol, a specialist in designing prosthetics, volunteered to help Winter.

Originally the doctors thought Winter would have to learn to swim without a tail. This would have switched her swimming style from “up and down” to “side to side” and that could have damaged her spine. It took him more than a year to build and perfect the prosthetic tail.

## BIONIC BEASTS

Winter was not the first animal to receive a prosthetic limb. When Beauty the bald eagle lost 90 percent of her beak after being shot by a poacher, Nate Calvin, co-founder of Kinetic Engineering Group, offered to build Beauty a beak. Even though the final version is still in progress, she uses her temporary beak made of nylon polymer to eat and drink.

Fuji the dolphin got a rare disease which ate away her tail fin. Without it, a dolphin can't swim or dive. An artificial rubber fin was created for Fuji and soon she was swimming and jumping again.

## ANIMAL ANTICS

Winter could already catapult herself into the air and land on a rubber raft in the water. So director Charles Martin Smith put that trick in the movie! Dolphins are famous for their playfulness and brains. “Just like all social animals, dolphins play, hunt and feed together. They live in groups and play is a way to bond. Dolphins are curious creatures and learn from their friends and family. Play is often a way for them to learn these lessons,” says Gabrielle Harris, the mammals and birds curator at uShaka Marine World.

Dolphins also have large brains for their bodies—in fact, a bottlenose dolphin is second only to humans in the ratio of brain size to body size.



WINTER LOST HER TAIL IN REAL LIFE WHEN SHE WAS TRAPPED IN A CRAB TRAP.

## HEROES OF THE SEA

In the movie a young boy, Sawyer, discovers an injured Winter in the trap and frees her. They form an instant connection. Humans and dolphins have a long history of heroic tales. In this story, humans save the dolphin, but in old sea stories there are claims of dolphins helping drowning sailors, rescuing people from sharks and making themselves useful as guides through treacherous waters.

But does this really happen? Surprisingly often! In 2004, a group of swimmers were confronted by a great white shark, off the coast of New Zealand. A pod of dolphins “herded” them together, circling them until the great white fled. There are also stories of dolphins saving other animals. In 1983 at Tokerau Beach in New Zealand a pod of pilot whales ran aground during ebb-tide. The people who lived there came out and did their best to keep the whales alive, sponging their skin and calming them, until the tide came back in. But even then the whales were having trouble. Dolphins came to the rescue. Somehow, a pod of dolphins figured out what was happening. They swam into the shallows—putting themselves at risk—and herded the pilot whales out to sea, saving 76 whales.

Dolphins have been seen hunting and working together to herd fish into tight balls.

The smallest is the tucuxi dolphin, which grows to about 1, 2 metres.

Dolphins are warm-blooded. Their bodies stay at about the same temperature all the time.



Let your imagination run wild and create a wonderful artwork. Pick up a paintbrush, make a collage or draw something. Get arty and enter the NG KIDS Young Artists competition.

## WAYS TO ENTER

- Turn to page 38 for the entry form.
- E-mail your entries to [yac@ngkids.co.za](mailto:yac@ngkids.co.za). Remember to write NG KIDS YAC in the subject line and include your age group with your artwork's title and category.
- Post your entry to NG KIDS Young Artists Competition, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8001.
- Visit the NG KIDS SA fan page on Facebook and click on the YAC tab.
- Deliver your entry to ABSA Building, Media24 Lifestyle Division, Ground Floor Reception, 4 Adderley Street, Cape Town.

## WHAT TO DO

- Paint a picture, create a sculpture or make a collage. You can be inspired by anything you like and it can be any size!
- Decide in which categories you want to take part. You can enter one artwork in each category.
- Entries open on 14 December 2011 and close on 21 February 2012.

## AGE GROUPS

- 5 to 7
- 8 to 11
- 12 to 14

## CATEGORIES

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# TURN TO PAGE 38 FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND ENTRY FORM

THE PANEL WILL JUDGE THE ENTRIES  
BASED ON CREATIVITY (50 PERCENT)  
AND SKILL (50 PERCENT). THE  
DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.  
ACTUAL ARTWORK WILL BE  
REQUIRED FOR JUDGING.

# WIN AWESOME PRIZES

## ART HAMPER



Nine winners – three in each category – will get an art bag filled with art supplies including Glitter Glue, Crazy Clay and more from Bostik! They will also win a year's subscription to NG KIDS, a Wii console with a uDraw Game Tablet, uDraw Studio game software and a copy of Pictionary, valued at R2 600 each, courtesy of Ster Kinekor Entertainment. The school that sends in the most number of entries will get the same prize package, art supplies worth R5 000 and three art bags from Bostik!

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LIFE OR A SCENE FROM  
YOUR IMAGINATION.

# COMPETITION CLOSSES 21 FEBRUARY 2012



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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

# NG KIDS YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION ENTRY FORM



FULL NAME:  AGE:  BIRTH DATE:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

SCHOOL:

ARTWORK TITLE/S:  CATEGORIES: (you can enter up to three artworks)  DRAWING AND PAINTING  
 SCULPTURE  
 COLLAGE AND MIXED MEDIA

This is my own original work and I give NG KIDS permission to publish and display my art. I agree that the art will become the property of NG KIDS and that all rights are transferred to NG KIDS.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:  HOME  GUARDIAN'S CELL

NAME OF GUARDIAN:

SIGNATURE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC **Closing date: 21 February 2012**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

1. The competition opens on 14 December 2011 and closes on 21 February 2012.  
 2. It is open to all readers who are between 5 and 14 years of age on 1 February 2012.  
 3. All art must be the entrant's own work.  
 4. Only one artwork for each category per entrant will be accepted.  
 5. All entries remain the property of NG KIDS and we regret that we cannot return any artwork or CDs.  
 6. Please supply a residential rather than a postal address.  
 7. NG KIDS and the National Geographic Society retain the right to use all artwork in post-competition publicity throughout the world. We reserve the right to exhibit artwork with a credit to the artist. The winners have the right to decline to have their name advertised or listed publicly. In this instance NG KIDS/NGS reserves the right to publish their artwork without credit and by entering into this competition they accept this.  
 8. The National Geographic Society and Media24 accept no responsibility for loss and damage to artwork.  
 9. The winners will be notified telephonically at the end of April 2012 and their names will appear in the May 2012 issue of NG KIDS magazine.  
 10. Prizes cannot be exchanged and no cash alternative will be offered.  
 11. Allow two months from announcement of the winners for delivery of prizes.

12. A panel will judge the entries based on creativity (50 percent) and skill (50 percent). The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into.  
 13. Employees of Media24, sponsors and their agents or any company associated with the competition and their immediate families are not eligible to enter.  
 14. Digital entries will be accepted but remember that actual finished artwork is far more impactful when it comes to judging. Should your artwork be selected for judging purposes it will be compulsory for the entrant to supply the original artwork to NG KIDS at their entrants own cost.  
 15. Digital entries must be 5 MB or smaller and must be in JPEG format.  
 16. Entrants living outside of South Africa accept that costs such as travel to South Africa and postage will be incurred in the event of winning a prize.  
 17. Nine winners will each win a Bostik art bag, a year's subscription to NG KIDS and a Wii console with one uDraw Game Tablet and uDraw Studio game software and a copy of Pictionary courtesy of Ster Kinekor Entertainment.  
 18. The school that sends in the most number of entries will get the same prize package as the winners plus R5 000 worth of art supplies and three art bags from Bostik.  
 19. The entrant accepts that entry to the competition does not constitute a contract or any form of legal commitment between the entrant and NG KIDS.

20. NG KIDS/Media24 or the National Geographic Society shall not assume liability for any ambiguity, error, oversight or omission whether negligent or otherwise which may be committed by any employee of NG KIDS, their agents or associates in respect of this competition.  
 21. Entry signifies acceptance of the rules. Refer to [www.ngkids.co.za](http://www.ngkids.co.za) for full terms and conditions.

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 Birth date   
 Age

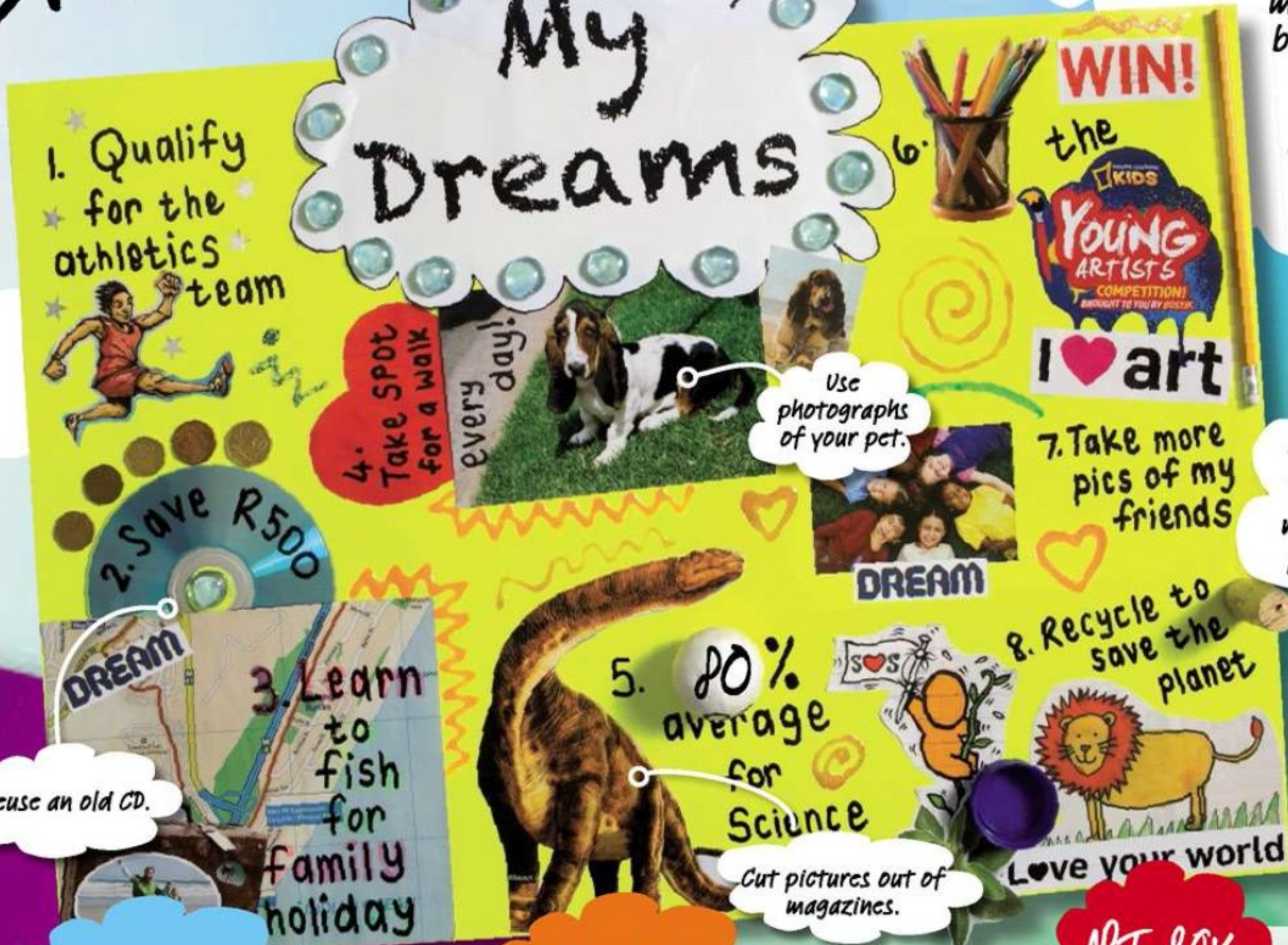
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC **SIGNATURE**

NGKJAN12

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# DREAM BIG WITH BOSTIK!

Give your New Year's resolutions a boost by making a dream board. Then put this creative collage in your room for inspiration.



Stick it to your wall with Prestik.



## ART BOX

### NEW BOSTIK NEON TWISTERS

are wax highlighters that twist up and put the fun back into highlighting. They're non-toxic, odourless and they never dry out!

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1. Think about the goals you have for the year ahead. You can brainstorm ideas with parents or friends if you like.
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3. Decide how you want to illustrate each one and collect your materials.
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You can visit [www.rollerkidz.co.za](http://www.rollerkidz.co.za) or call **083-445-3165** for more details.

\*SHOES NOT INCLUDED IN PRIZE.

Discovery Vitality members can subscribe to National Geographic KIDS for only R187 for 12 issues (no gift). Subscribe now by visiting VitalityMall at [www.discovery.co.za](http://www.discovery.co.za) and remember you can use your Discovery Miles, accumulated VitalityMall credit or a combination of these methods to pay. The number of magazines you can subscribe to annually at a reduced rate depends on your Vitality status. Terms and conditions apply. Vitality HealthStyle (Pty) Ltd is an authorised financial services provider.



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### COMPETITION RULES:

1. The competition opens on 14 December 2011 and closes on 17 January 2012. 2. The prizes will be awarded to entries drawn randomly by means of a random number generator after the closing date. 3. Winners will be notified by telephone. 4. No correspondence will be entered into. 5. The prizes are not transferable and may not be converted to cash. 6. Allow two months from winner notification for delivery of prizes. 7. Staff of Media24 (Ltd) and their immediate family, sponsors and their advertising agencies may not enter. 8. This competition is on behalf of Roller Kidz, who is also responsible for the delivery of prizes within South Africa. 9. Participants and winners of this competition indemnify and hold National Geographic Kids, Media24 (Ltd) and the sponsor harmless against any liability, claim, damage or loss that may result from participating or winning these prizes. 10. Roller Kidz competition offer not valid in conjunction with Vitality offer.

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# Fun Stuff

games, laughs and lots to do!



PETER WOODBRIDGE (ART)

## Firework Fun

Cape Town is celebrating the New Year over Table Mountain, which is one of the new Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Spot eleven differences between the two fireworks pictures. **ANSWERS ON PAGE 50**

# What in the World?

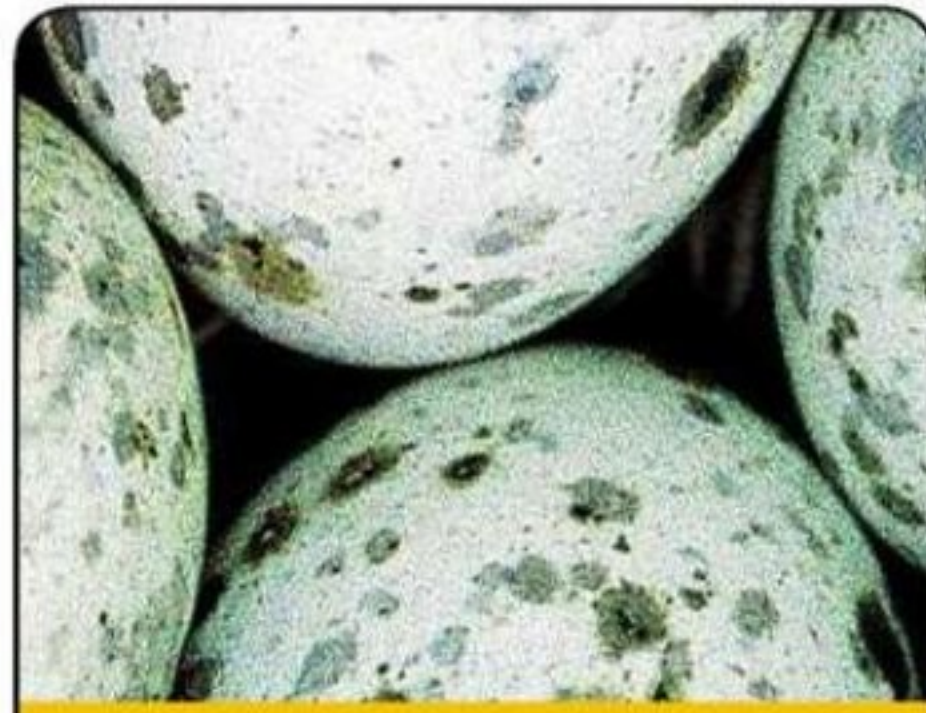
## SPOTTED IN NATURE

These photographs show close-up views of things with spots. Unscramble the letters to identify each picture.

Bonus: Use the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle below. ANSWERS ON PAGE 50



F H S I



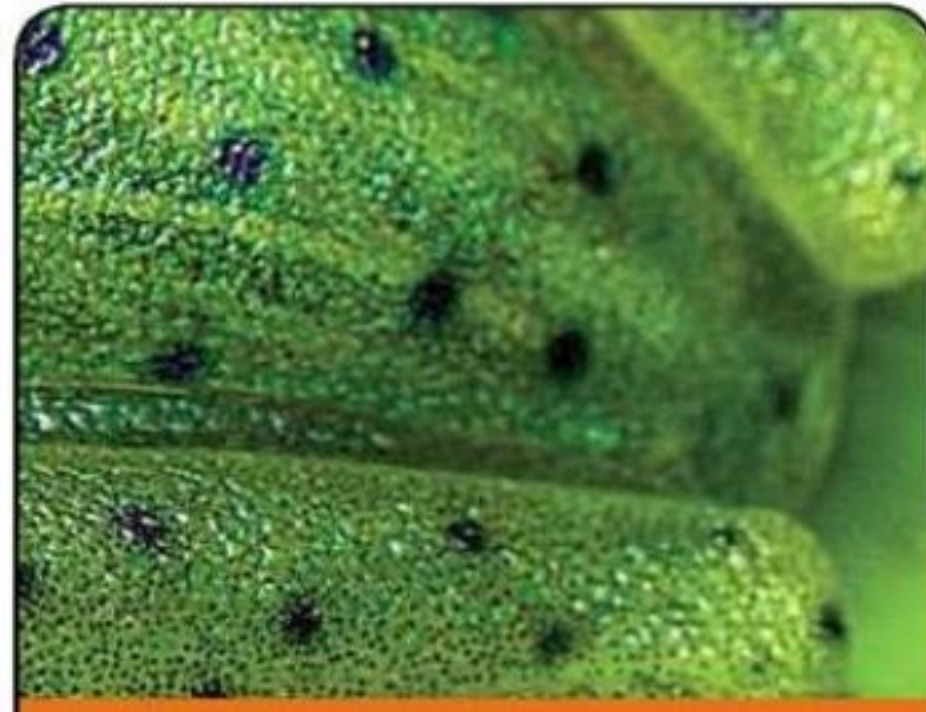
I D B R G S E G



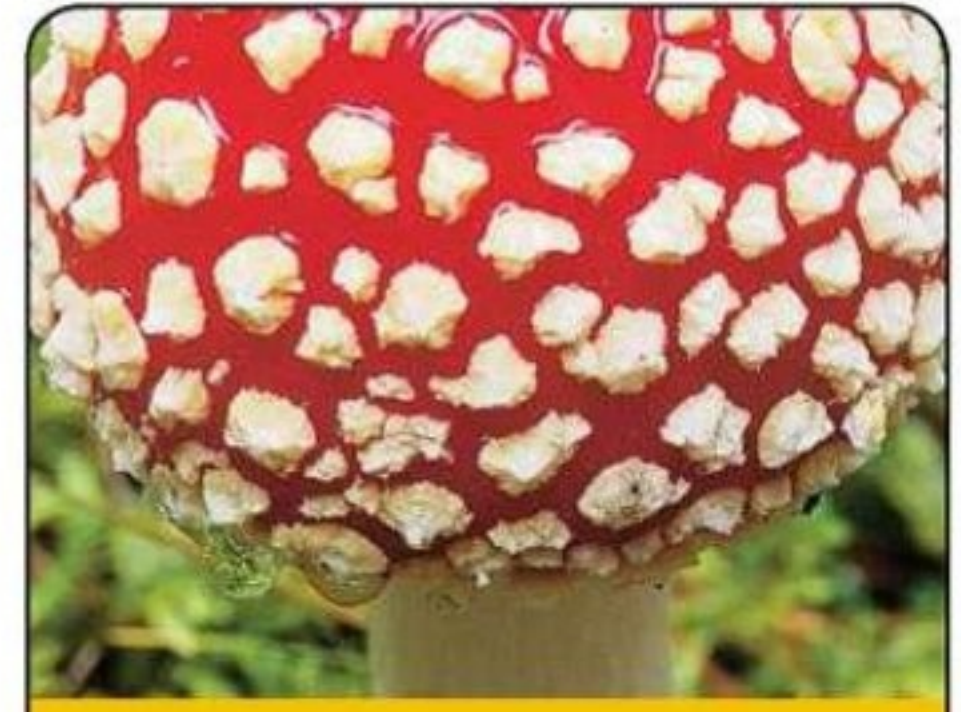
E T H H E A C



N W F A



O G R F



H O M R S M O U



T E L E B E



E W L R O F



Q D S I U

**HINT:** Call them spots or dots, this canine has lots.

**ANSWER:** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_

TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © JAYNES GALLERY / DANITA DELIMONT; © DUNCAN USHER / MINDEN PICTURES; © KRISTY-ANNE GLUBISH / DESIGN PICS / CORBIS. MIDDLE ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © LARS PERSSON / NATURBILD / CORBIS; © THOMAS MARENT / ARDEA; © PAULI NIEMINEN / PLAINPICTURE / CORBIS. BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © PASCAL GOETGHELUCK / ARDEA; © INDEXSTOCK / SUPERSTOCK; DANITA DELIMONT / GETTY IMAGES.

PLAY THIS! ↓

**RATCHET & CLANK: ALL 4 ONE PS3 and Move**

Ratchet and Clank are back and All 4 One takes off where the previous game, A Crack in Time, left off. You might remember Captain Qwark became president of Luminopolis and is now so taken with himself, he does not notice Doctor Nefarious is back and up to his old tricks. The evil Doctor has unleashed the light-eating monster Z'Grute, a force not even he can control. Join Ratchet, Clank, Captain Qwark and now for the first time Dr. Nefarious on an adventure in which you and up to three friends can play the character of your choice, explore alien planets, solve puzzles and save the innocent citizens of Luminopolis from the Z'Grute and a mysterious robotic force. All 4 One is an intergalactic experience you'll remember for light years to come.



**HINT:**  
If no one gets hit by a grove beetle in the Deadgrove, you'll receive a bronze trophy.

**WIN A GAME!**

You can win one copy of Ratchet & Clank: All 4 One. SMS\* "NGK Clank" followed by your name, age and address to 33970.

**WIN THIS!**

You can win one of five copies of Yunomi. SMS\* "Yunomi" followed by your name, age and address to 33970.

**YUNOMI**

Did you know your best friend was born in Cape Town or your dad's first car was a red Volkswagen? Yunomi is a new board game all about who knows the most about everyone else! Make your way around the board, answering weird and wacky questions about your friends and family. The goal: to be the Yunomi champion.

GAME TIME! ↑

**FUN factory**

**THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN**

Blistering barnacles and thundering typhoons! Get ready for an adventure that will take you halfway around the world. Tintin, a curious journalist, buys a model of a ship called the Unicorn at a market and finds a secret scroll inside. Soon he's being chased by Ivanovitch Sakharine, a villain who thinks Tintin has the missing clue to the pirate Red Rackham's treasure. With the help of his dog Snowy and Captain Haddock, Tintin has to outrun his enemies and be the first to find the shipwreck of The Unicorn. The movie is based on three of the comic books featuring Tintin, created by the Belgian artist Herge in 1929. The books have been translated into 80 languages and have sold more than 350 million copies! **The Adventures of Tintin opens nationwide on 23 December 2011.**



**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**

Find the five differences between the pictures.



**WIN A HAMPER!**

You can win A Tintin Hamper. SMS\* "NGK Tintin" followed by your name, age and address to 33970.

WATCH THIS! ↓

\*SMSs cost R1.50. Free SMSs don't apply. Competition closes 17 January 2012.

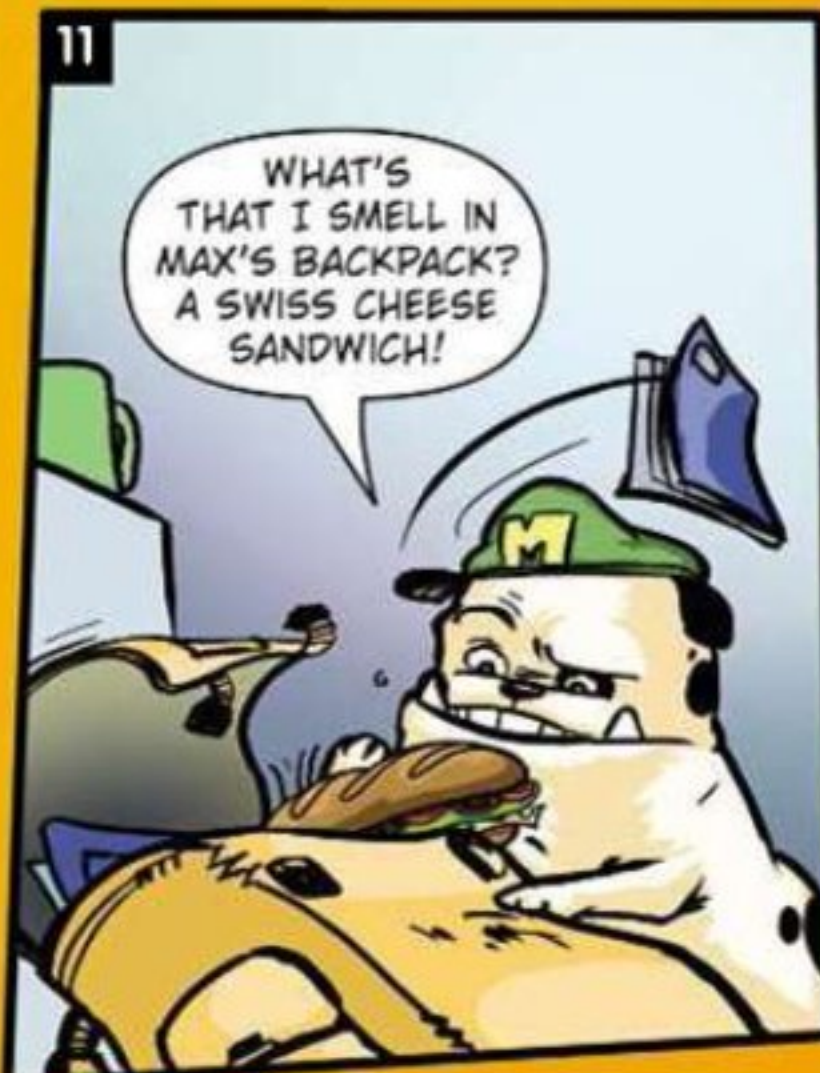
# Unleashed

WHAT SUPERFUN WILL ATLAS, NEVILLE, LULU, AND MAJOR GET INTO LATE AT NIGHT?

C'MON, MAX. IT'S PAST YOUR BEDTIME!

GOOD NIGHT, GUYS!





# Find the HIDDEN ANIMALS



A

Animals often blend into their environments for protection. Find the animals listed below in the photographs. Write the letter of the correct photo next to each animal's name. **ANSWERS ON PAGE 50**

- 1. hare \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. snake \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. eel \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. deer \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. owl \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. shrimp \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. tiger \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. praying mantis \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. fish \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. lemur \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. bat \_\_\_\_\_



B



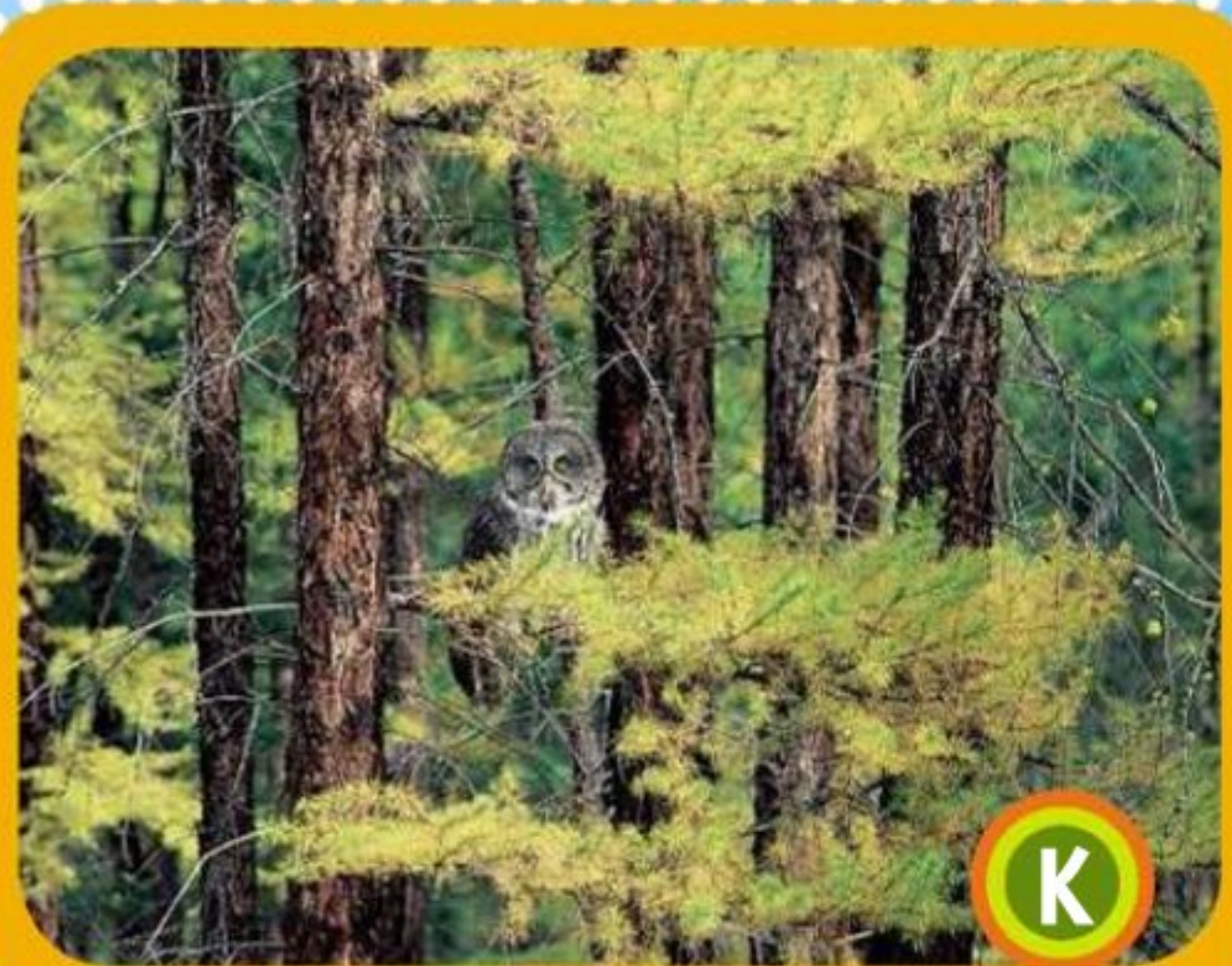
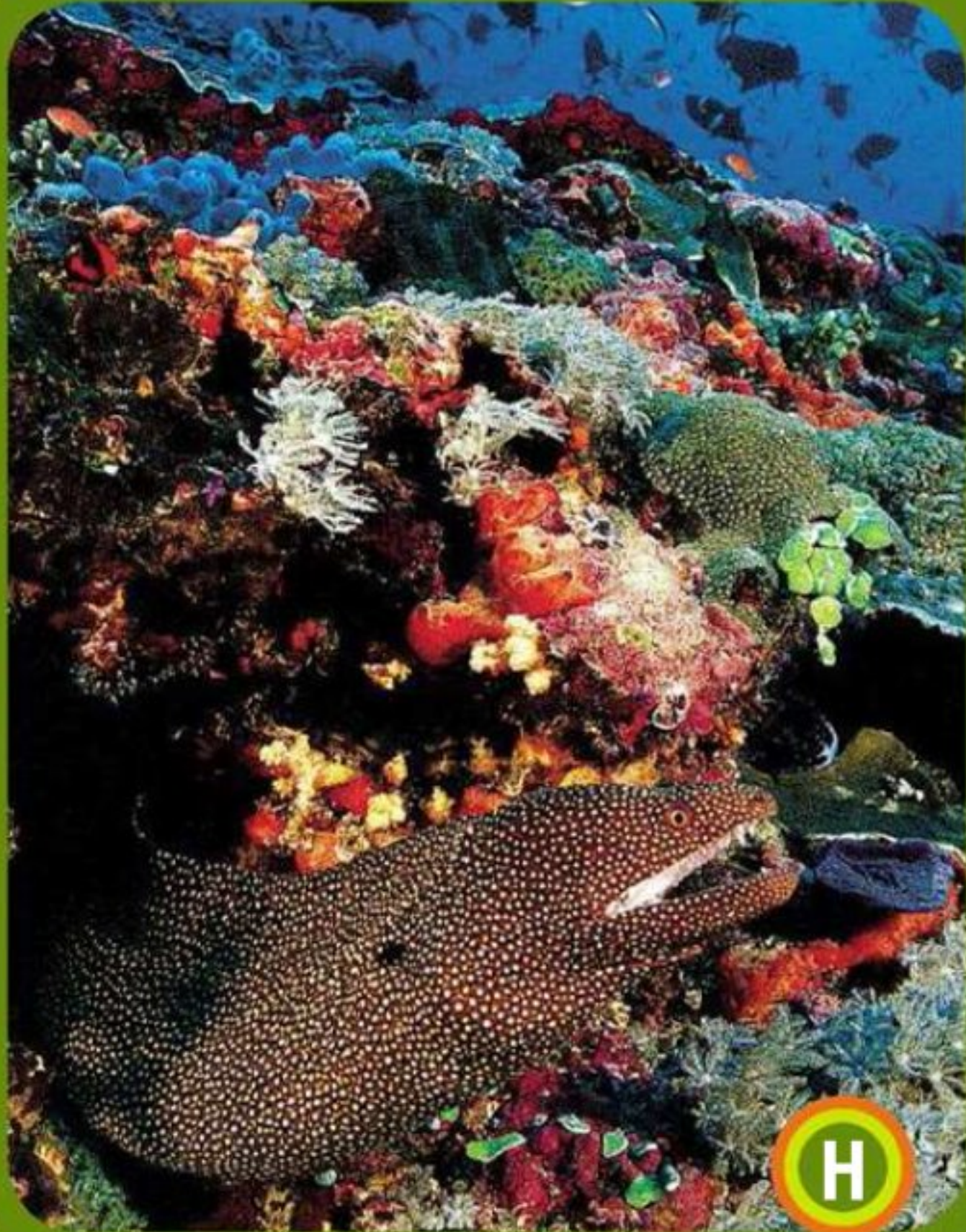
C



D



E



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# Art Zone

NG KIDS readers sent us drawings of their dream holidays!

**"Vakansie saam met Disney-karakters"**  
Nicola van der Merwe, 10,  
Lynnwoodrif

**"Lekker by die See"**  
Grant Briel, 10,  
Pretoria

**"Droomland"**  
Tean Smit, 9,  
Caledon

**Hawaii**  
Dorette Bester, 11,  
Jongensfontein

**Dream Beach**  
Katherine James, 11,  
Johannesburg

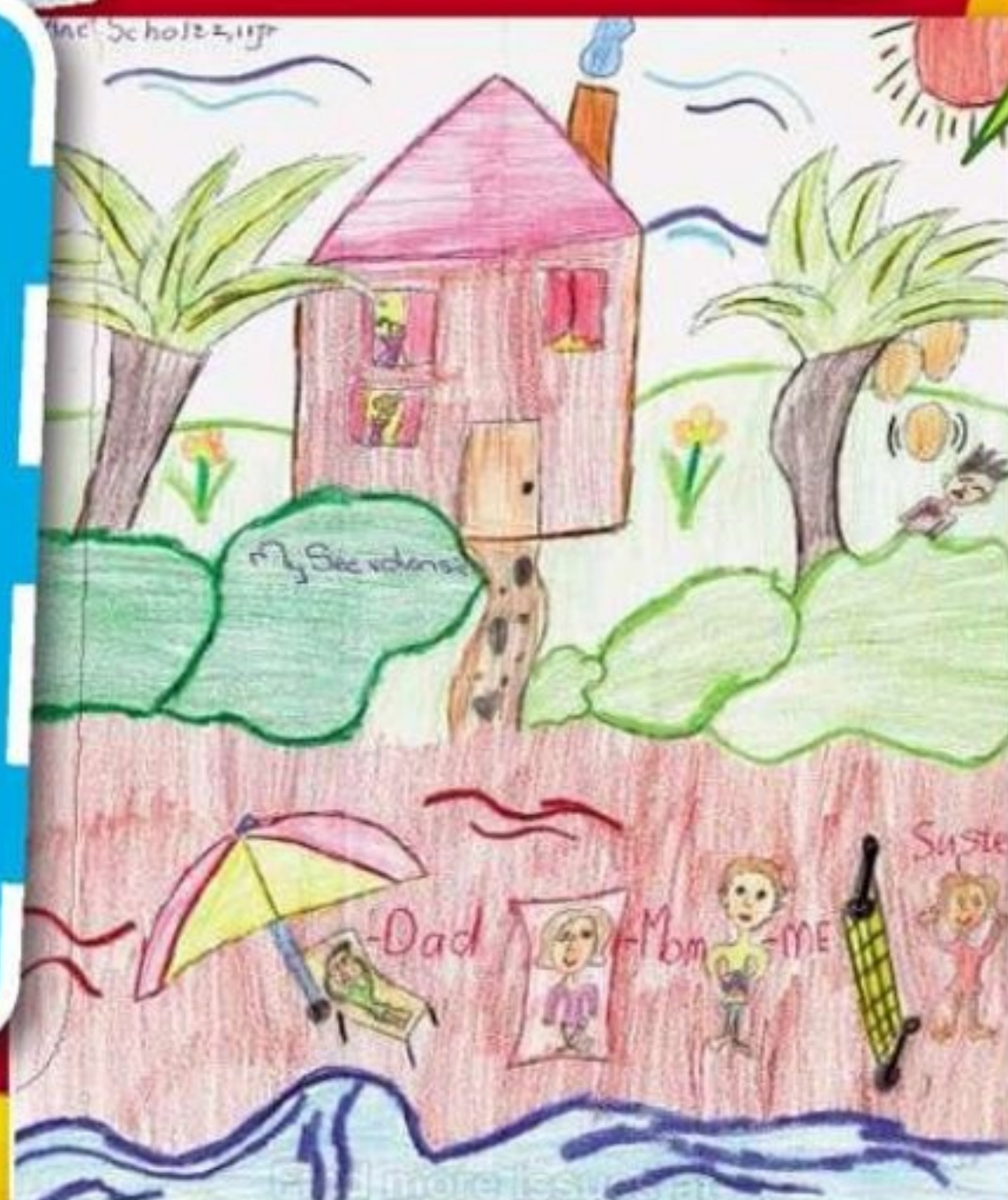
**"Uitstap-Blydskap"**  
Niquitta Briel, 7,  
Pretoria

**"Seevakansie"**  
Ane Scholtz, 11

## DRAW Planet Earth

Send your original drawings to  
The Editor at NG KIDS,  
PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000.

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society, and all rights thereto are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.



## Our Lucky Winners

Our lucky winners from the September issue are:

**Pokémon TCG: Black & White collector's mini-album boxes**  
Gavin Jones, Caitlin Jones, Cisca Smith,  
Yevashen Pillay, Milan Kruger

**150 Years of South African Rugby**  
Kyle Lavis, Rudi Botha

**Spy Dog: Joke book**  
Griffin Barry, Nicola van der Merwe,  
Akira Naidoo, Tristan O'Kennedy



# Funny FILL-IN

## Splatter Up!

BY SARAH YOUNGSON  
Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read it out loud for a laugh.



I've never been more \_\_\_\_\_ adjective \_\_\_\_\_. My baseball team, the \_\_\_\_\_ colour \_\_\_\_\_, was about to play the championship game. But Coach \_\_\_\_\_ noun, plural \_\_\_\_\_, was about to play the championship game. But Coach \_\_\_\_\_ celebrity \_\_\_\_\_ announced that the official rules had changed! First every player would \_\_\_\_\_ verb \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ large number \_\_\_\_\_ times before going to bat. We also had to wear our gloves on our \_\_\_\_\_ body part, plural \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_ article of clothing, plural \_\_\_\_\_ and run like a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ animal \_\_\_\_\_. Before Coach could explain more, the umpire shouted: "\_\_\_\_\_ verb \_\_\_\_\_ ball!" The umpire tossed me our new official bat, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ tool \_\_\_\_\_. When the \_\_\_\_\_ type of job \_\_\_\_\_ threw the new official ball, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ fruit \_\_\_\_\_, it zoomed past me and \_\_\_\_\_ past-tense verb \_\_\_\_\_ all over the catcher. After \_\_\_\_\_ large number \_\_\_\_\_ tries, I finally hit the \_\_\_\_\_ same fruit \_\_\_\_\_ all the way to \_\_\_\_\_ faraway city \_\_\_\_\_. I started \_\_\_\_\_ verb ending in -ing \_\_\_\_\_ as fast as I could until I slid into home base. This new game isn't so \_\_\_\_\_ adjective \_\_\_\_\_ after all.



DAN SIPPLE

# The Funnies



"DON'T YOU KNOW 'GO FISH' IS A CARD GAME?"



"GUESS WHO WAS GROUNDED AGAIN?"



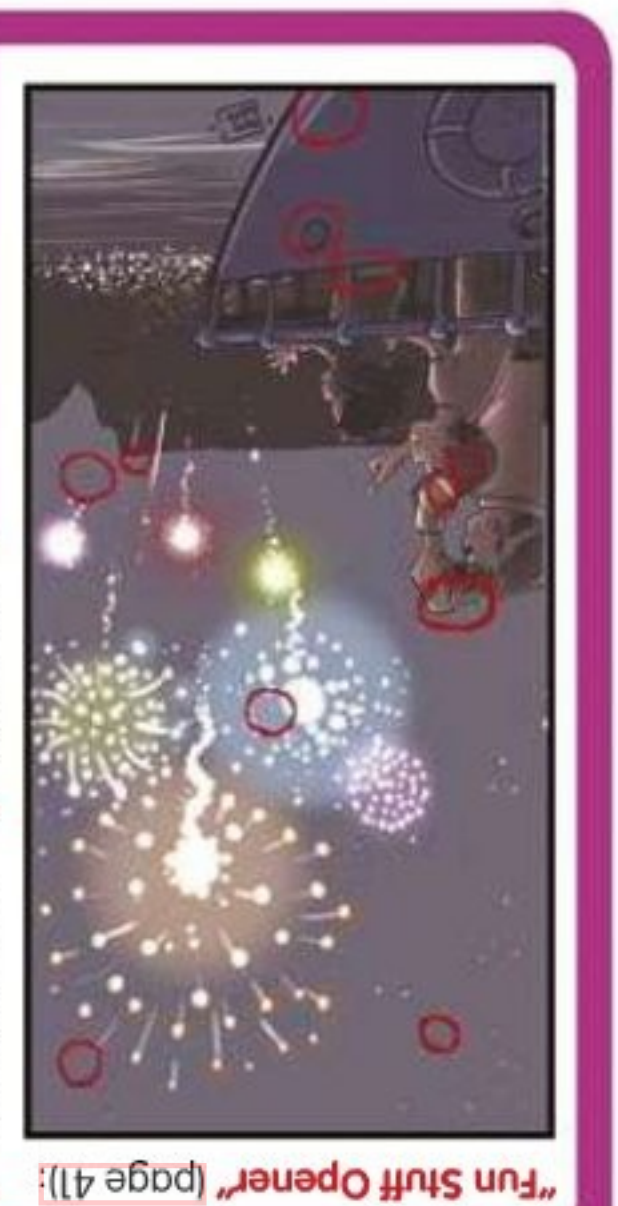
"...AND SPANKY DID THAT ONE!"



"DID YOU REMEMBER TO ZIP UP THE TENT, BOBBY?"

## Answers

"What in the World?" (page 41):  
 Top row: fish, bird eggs,  
 Middle row: fawn,  
 Bottom row: mushroom, frog,  
 row: beetle, flower, squid,  
 Bonus: Dalmatian  
 "Find the Hidden Animals"  
 (page 46):  
 1. C, 2. J, 3. H, 4. A,  
 5. K, 6. D, 7. G, 8. I, 9. F, 10.  
 E, 11. B.



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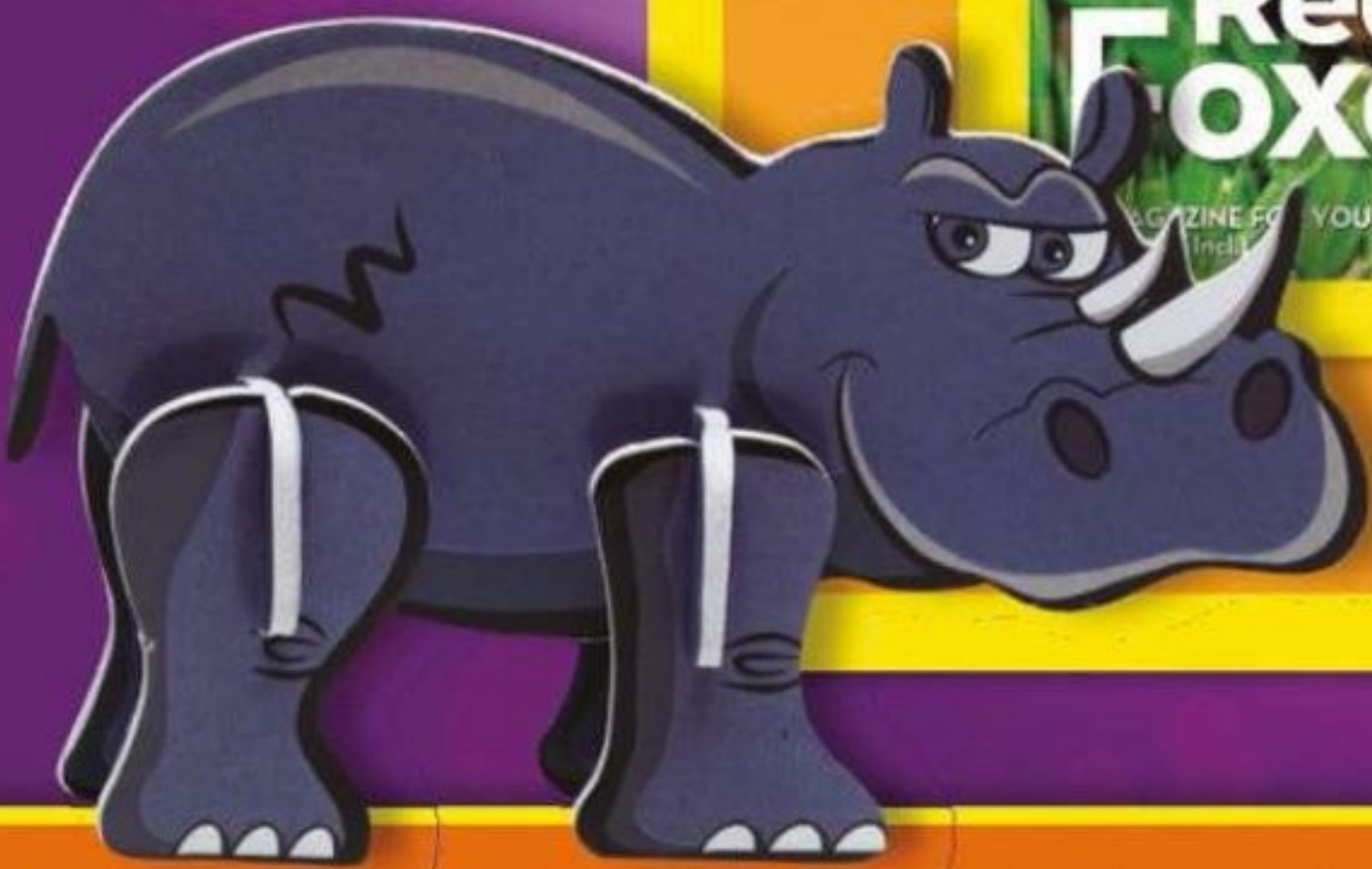
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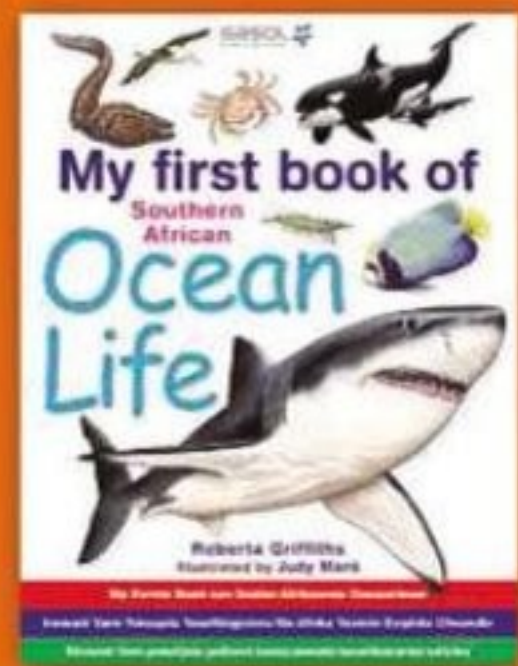
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\* Offer closes 31 January 2012. NG Little Kids is published every six weeks. Offer limited to first 211 subscribers. Only one book per order. We reserve the right to substitute the gift pictured with one of equivalent value. If you take out a gift subscription, you will receive it, not the gift recipient. Offer available to SA addresses only. Please call 021 405 1905 for international rates. Allow six weeks for delivery.



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